

The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

Contents.

NEWS OF THE WEEK—

The Parliament of the Week	338
Unauthorised Negotiation	341
Arctic Expedition	341
Continental Notes	341
War Armaments	344
Nova Scotian Loyalty	344
India and China	344
The Real Railway King	345
The Seined War Steamers	345
The Darien Expedition	345

The Lancashire Labour Battle	346
Madame Denis	346
Execution of Ribandmen	347
Preservation of Life from Shipwreck	347
Health of London	347
Miscellaneous	347
Private and Confidential	348

PUBLIC AFFAIRS—

What a "League" could Do	349
--------------------------------	-----

How and Where Englishmen are made Loyal	350
Oxford University under Repair	351
The Way to Heaven	352
A "Stranger" in Parliament	352

OPEN COUNCIL—

Cuba	353
------------	-----

LITERATURE—

Summary	354
History of the French Protestant Refugees	355

The Homes of the Wretched	355
Three Novels	356

PORTFOLIO—

Haythorne Papers	356
------------------------	-----

Births, Marriages, and Deaths	357
-------------------------------------	-----

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—

City Intelligence, Markets, Advertisements, &c.	357-358
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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1854.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

PARLIAMENT has broken up for the holidays; having transacted in the first half of the session an amount of work such as is seldom witnessed before Easter. We do not speak only of reforms and practical improvements which are in progress or in contemplation, such as railway regulation, re-organisation of the civil service, reformed jurisdiction in testamentary matters, continuance of representative reforms in the colonies, or improvement in finance, especially that unpretending improvement which brings the gross as well as the net revenue under Parliamentary review,—but we speak of the more obvious transactions in which the Legislature has taken its share with the Executive Government. We have instituted a great war,—we have done so without disturbance to the national credit,—we have had franker explanations on foreign relations from Ministers than this country has been accustomed to receive,—we have made no small progress in ascertaining our alliances abroad,—and if the promised Reform Bill has not been accomplished, we have arrived at a distinct understanding of the reasons why it must stand over. Amongst the incidents of the session there have been more than one Ministerial crisis, including that created by the questions whether the Reform Bill or Lord John Russell should be withdrawn.

The Reform Bill had become an incubus on the Ministry, and therefore an incubus on public affairs. So constructed as to suit the particular views of extremely cautious and even timid politicians, it possessed a character which could command no interest in the multitude of the English people. We should have been glad to see it pass, because we believe it would have become the means of obtaining more; but we heartily agree with those who think that it was not worth the extreme embarrassment which a Ministerial crisis would have caused just at this particular time. It was understood that Lord John Russell felt honourably bound to stand or fall by the bill; and it was natural that he should do so. He has before been reproached for the weak habit of making professions and not attempting to fulfil them. This is the second time that he has advanced a Reform Bill without getting it carried; and from his demeanour on Tuesday night, it was evident that he fully appreciated the extremely equivocal position in which he stood. Of his sincer-

city, however, there could not be the smallest doubt. It would be a very low minded and mean appreciation of motives in public men, to suppose that any selfish consideration could actuate Lord John in giving up the measure; while the public was decidedly in favour of his doing so. This was felt by all parties in the House; and the true nature of his concession was perfectly understood. The scene, indeed, was extraordinarily impressive. It is seldom in this country, and in our time, that a public man stands before the representatives of a nation, and speaks to them on personal grounds, with the unconcealable signs of strong emotion; challenging the country, in fact, to look into his heart and to know him for its faithful servant. Such was the scene, however, on Tuesday night; and often as we have differed from Lord John Russell, we should revolt from the idea of doubting such a man at such a time. If Englishmen would more often speak in such manner, directly from the heart, in plain language, straight to the people, it would, we believe, be not only better for the fame of public men, but it would create such feelings between them and the nation as would enable the country to put more generous construction upon their actions, and would incite the public men themselves to much nobler courses.

The Reform Bill, therefore, is removed from amongst the measures of the session; and we now understand that there is to be no essential modification of the Parliamentary system, at least until next year.

The financial account is not so purely negative. In laying before Parliament the balance-sheet of the public income and expenditure, Mr. Gladstone has departed from the usual course, by making a statement. The reasons why he did so were threefold—first, because his budget was produced so early that he could not treat the finance of last year as a whole, and was so far deficient in his data for the estimates of the current year; secondly, because attempts have been industriously kept up to mislead the public into the idea that there is some kind of tampering with the balances in the Exchequer, and that there is a real deficiency; and thirdly, because the nature of the public accounts is such as to afford the opportunity for keeping up those delusions, if it did not suggest them. His statement is singularly plain. On his showing, the manner of presenting the public accounts to the people is now condemned as worse than useless—it is misleading. For

instance, in the present balance-sheet 5,800,000*l.*, or more, is set down under the head of "deficiency bills," and the public has an idea that bills to that amount are necessary for the purpose of meeting "a deficiency" in the Exchequer. This surmise is strengthened by observing that the balances in the Exchequer, which last year stood at 8,579,000*l.*, are now reduced to 2,800,000*l.*; and the public has an idea, therefore, that Mr. Gladstone has been squandering the store left in his hands by his predecessor. There is nothing of the kind,—no deficiency, no want of means. The so-called "deficiency" is nothing but an allowance made by the Bank for any disparity in the incoming and the outgoing of public money which are continually going on. The actual amount of allowance which is customary is three or four millions; at the present time it is actually 2,800,000*l.*, but it is customary to calculate at the beginning of the quarter the gross amount of those successive "deficiencies," as if they were to be presented in one lump, which is not the case; and hence the item of "Deficiency Bills" is a positive falsehood. So with the balance. Mr. Gladstone has reduced the amount kept in the Bank by paying off the Minor Stocks, which the owners decline to convert; but it is admitted that he retains in hand amply more than sufficient to meet current demands, while the arrangement brings the account to closer quarters. That there is no deficiency, is proved by the fact that last year the surplus income over expenditure was 3,000,000*l.* clear; and that the income is still going on at the same rate of excess over expenditure. The effect of this statement on the commercial mind is in some degree shown by the fact that the day after Mr. Gladstone's statement, the funds rose.

The necessity for this statement was caused by the early day at which the budget was brought forward: by this time most of the financial business of the session has been completed; and in that respect we are nearly at the point where we usually stand at July or August.

We enter upon the war with a short account at the nation's Bank and undiminished means. We also enter upon it with a frankness between Government and people. The explicit declarations of Ministers on more than one occasion during the session, the very frank publication of correspondence on the Turkish affair, including the secret correspondence, the publication of subsequent despatches, the tone and substance of the royal decla-

rations in the *London Gazette*,—have all made the public more a party to this great quarrel than has been usual when the Crown has entered into the exercise of its great privilege of war.

The principal obscurity now hangs about the position of Prussia; but it appears to consist less in any reserve of our Ministers than in the conduct of Prussia itself. Prussia has signed the protocol which lays down the basis of the relations between the four Powers—in other words, which continues a declaration of the views announced by the conference at Vienna, and reserves the opportunity for more active alliance should Austria and Prussia think fit. In the meanwhile, however, the Chevalier Bunsen in England is recalled—an act which implies a cooling amity on the part of Prussia towards England and towards France. This is explained, however, as simply the result of the ambassador's own conduct, in "exceeding his instructions;" and the language of M. Vincke and M. Bethmann-Holweg is pointed to as indicating genuine Prussian feeling. M. Vincke declared that neutrality would be impossible for Prussia and Austria, and he hesitated to grant the loan which the king asked, without some specific pledge that the two German Powers would enter upon an active alliance with England and France to put down the great invader. This, however, was the language of the minority in the Chamber. The Baron Manteuffel, who is understood to retain his place by the refusal of the King to accept his resignation, uses much more guarded language; and the coolness of Prussia, strongly asserted as it is, is far from being contradicted by the demeanour of the Government. Prussia has just concluded an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Austria—a circumstance which extends to the latter Power the suspicions excited by the conduct of King Frederick William. We can only surmise how matters really stand, and our conjecture is that King Frederick William is trying to keep open his account with both sides, meaning to take part ultimately with the strong; but in the meanwhile inclining most to his brother-in-law the Czar.

The suspicions against Austria, suggested through her special alliance with Prussia, are called into some activity by the military occupation of Servia. At present, however, although we are far from despising vigilance, we should deem it "an idle waste of thought" to devote too much consideration to the possible treacheries of Austria. The representation made by the Austrian Government—that it is under great difficulties, that it is not yet prepared for direct hostility against Russia, but that it will back up the existing Government of Turkey, by keeping in order her provinces on the right bank of the Danube—is a proposition consistent enough in itself, and is certainly sustained by the conduct of the Viennese Government in recent negotiations. Austria may be a traitor, but the man who traverses the world, even in the wildest country, and who feels his heart sink at the sight of every passenger, lest he should be a brigand or a sharper, will be more often wretched by his own fears than by the keenest traitor of them all. Sufficient unto the day is the treachery thereof. Austria must be watched, at any rate, because she is not mistress of herself; for to her rickety empire, with its vast and indented frontier, with many enemies around her, Circumstance will always be the supreme dictator; and therefore she is incompetent to be trusted by an ally. But beyond that standing mistrust, further speculations upon the inmost motives of the Emperor Francis Joseph, or of individual statesmen at Vienna, is waste of brain-work.

On the Danube there is, in the news of the week, nothing of very material change; and the next move is the grand object of speculation. We have now the text of the convention between Turkey and her two Western allies, showing that

those two allies undertake to sustain the Porte, and that the Porte is bound not to make any separate peace, or even to negotiate for peace. A document more important is the firman issued by the Sultan to regulate the administration of justice between the Moslem and Christians. Couple this with the attempt made by the Sultan, in an autocratic act, to take possession of the mosques on behalf of the state, and it will be perceived that this new firman constitutes a total revolution in the ecclesiastical polity of Turkey; the ecclesiastical polity of any Mussulman country being the larger half of its entire polity. By the combined work of superstition and of its military character, the Church of Islam has become the chief power in the state. It has been checked by the circumstance that the actual soldiers could not be priests, and the Church, therefore, has had to do its military work by deputy. The sacred character of the Sultan, also, has contributed to keep a large share of power to the political chiefs. On the other hand, the established power of the Church has induced landowners under an absolute Government to alienate their property to a corporation which the temporal state dared not assail, and to make themselves the pensionaries of the mosques; as if the Barons of England had endowed the cathedrals and made themselves the stipendiaries of the cathedral establishments. That property, the Sultan Abd-ul-Medjid has, by a declaration, made the property of the state. In Turkey, therefore, the Church of Islam has been converted into an establishment within the control of the temporal Government; and while the ecclesiastical republican-pope of Islam has thus reduced to subjection, the Christians are released from their degraded condition by the firman. This imperial order establishes a new tribunal to settle disputes between Mussulmans and Christians. Its composition is singularly simple and plain, and yet so contrived as to avoid any direct offence in its language to Mussulmans. The new tribunal will consist of distinguished persons in each province, somewhat resembling our county magistrates; the veli of the district to preside. The accused will in the first case be examined by the cadi, whose function, however, is limited to deciding whether or not the case shall go for trial. All summary condemnation is forbidden, as well as the use of the torture in any case to extract evidence. The bastinado is in all cases laid aside for ever. The new tribunal is charged to receive all evidence, without distinction of race or faith; the witness to be put upon oath, if that be necessary for the extraction of the truth. Should this firman work, it seems likely to become the Magna Charta of Turkey.

From the further East, we have intelligence that Dost Mohammed has sent a special messenger to Major Edwardes, the commissioner of Peshawur, declaring that the Dost will not accept a Russian alliance; an alarming assurance from that wily old ruffian.

There is another assurance, too, less alarming, but equally suspicious. A Russian war ship has arrived at Shanghai with the announcement that the Emperor of Japan, acceding to the request of Russia, has opened the trade of his empire and island to the trade of the world; only he requires time to carry out his plan. This looks very like a Russian attempt to forestal Commodore Perry, who had already lodged the same request with the Emperor, and an attempt at mystification by arranging for a delay which Commodore Perry does not appear to have suggested. A gift to the commerce of the world conveyed through intriguing, commerce-prohibiting, and lying Russia, merits not thanks but suspicion.

From the Baltic we have news only of preparations: a Russian fleet is reported off Faroe, in Gothland; and Admiral Napier has left Kiøge Bay for the same quarter.

Spain has yielded its first indemnity—that demanded by Mr. Soulé on account of the *Black*

Warrior. Castilian pride succumbs, not only to an indemnity, but to an apology. It will now, we suppose, be a race between the successive demands for indemnity—for which the Island authorities are sure to give occasion—and the growth of this new-born Spanish humility.

The insurrection in Monaco, got up for the Hereditary Prince, has been put down by a much more popular insurrection. In 1848, Monaco was merged in the Sardinian dominions, and now the Hereditary Prince is playing off the return from Riba on behalf of the pigmy empire from which his papa was displaced. But the 7000 subjects who used to bow to the Duke, so much prefer the rule of King Victor Emanuel, that there was a regular rebellion against the dynasty on the mere attempt at restoration; and it may be said that a second revolution confirms King Victor Emanuel as the Sovereign Lord of Monaco.

PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

The great dramatic incident of the week in Parliament has unquestionably been the postponement of the Reform Bill on Tuesday night. It was known that Lord John Russell had been wavering between resignation and concurrence with his colleagues in postponing the measure; and uncertainty as to what might occur, as well as great interest in Lord John himself, and curiosity as to how he would make the announcement, drew crowds to the House both of Members and Strangers. No doubt the speech will read coldly, but the reader must remember that it was delivered at a full meeting of the noblest assembly in the world, who were so deeply interested that they maintained the most painful silence, and largely participated in the emotions of the orator who was sacrificing so much of personal ambition and predilection for what he earnestly believed to be the good of his country.

The motion upon which Lord JOHN RUSSELL delivered his statement was a formal one—that the House, at its rising, do adjourn till Thursday the 27th of April, and at the outset of his speech he explained that the 27th had been fixed instead of the 24th, because the humiliation day had been fixed for the 26th, and members objected to go on with the Oxford University Bill, or the Railway Bill, the first night after the recess. He then proceeded to state the intentions of the Government:—

"The House is aware that Lord Aberdeen, on the formation of his Government, declared to those who accepted office under him, and declared in Parliament, that a measure of Parliamentary reform would be one of the measures which would be among the bases upon which his Government would be formed. The members who accepted office at that time, accepted office with that understanding, and consented to that proposal. I mention this, sir, partly because I think it is stated, in an inviolable manner, that my personal honour is alone concerned in the carrying on of this measure. (Cheers.) I consider, sir, that my personal honour was engaged when the question was, whether I would consent to serve under the Crown as a member of Lord Aberdeen's administration. If Lord Aberdeen had said that it was not his intention to propose or to adopt any measure of Parliamentary reform, and I had consented to be a member of that administration, I might fairly have been questioned in this House, and my personal honour have been called in question; but from the moment that Lord Aberdeen had made that declaration, and that his colleagues had accepted office on the faith of that declaration, the question of personal honour regarded not me alone, but regarded all the members of that administration. (Cheers.) Sir, Lord Aberdeen and his colleagues stated at the time that they did not think that with the pressure of important business before them—with the finances unsettled, with the India Bill requiring attention, and with other important measures before them—it was possible to bring forward a measure of Parliamentary reform during the last session. I think there was no question of serious importance raised as to the propriety of that determination. But during the recess the Cabinet applied themselves most sedulously and deliberately to the consideration of this important subject, and a measure was framed which I had the honour of introducing into this House on the 13th of February last. Sir, I see no reason to conceive that that measure was inadequate to the occasion, that it was based upon wrong principle, that it was carried to too great an extent, or that its provisions were not adapted to reform and to conserve, which I have always considered ought to be the objects kept in view in a measure of this kind. (Cheers.) At the time that her Majesty declared in her Speech from the Throne that such a measure would be proposed, and at the time when I brought forward the measure in this House, there was great probability of a war with Russia, although no rupture had actually taken place, and it was still probable that the negotiations might be terminated by pacific arrangements. Unfortunately that was not the case. But while these questions were still pending, and I proposed the adjournment of the second reading of this bill until the period which is now in question, namely, the 27th of April, I did so on the ground that very important questions were then before the house, relating either immediately to the preparation of forces for the war, or to the supply of the means for the payment of those forces. I stated then, as I

had stated on a previous occasion, that I did not consider that, abstractedly, a state of war was a sufficient ground for not proposing a measure of parliamentary reform. I stated that there might be circumstances, such as those which occurred at the commencement of the war in 1803, which might so occupy the attention of every man, that it would be impossible to propose any measure of that kind; but I stated that I did not think the general fact that this nation was engaged in a war with Russia to be sufficient reason for not proposing during the war such a measure of internal reform and internal improvement as I had introduced. Sir, I see no reason to retract that opinion. I do not think either that any one present will differ from that statement, or consider that it is impossible or inexpedient during a state of war to bring forward measures of internal improvement and reform, including such a measure as I have mentioned. I stated likewise that I thought that during a period of war it was necessary to impose great burdens on the country, and that if there were classes which were fitted to have the elective franchise, and which had it not—which were entitled to it but did not enjoy it—that if they were to bear these burdens, it was far from being unfitting to admit them to this franchise. (Cheers.) Sir, from neither of these opinions do I see any reason to recede; but when war was declared, it was to be considered by the Government whether or no at this particular time we should proceed with the second reading of the Reform Bill.

Now, it is not to be disguised that a Reform Bill of any extensive nature whatever attacks many interests, wounds many prejudices, loses many friends; and if the stream of reform is sluggish, the weeds of self-interest and prejudice embarrass and completely choke it. (*Cheers.*) Now, sir, we have had to look at the prospect of our being able to carry the Reform Bill in the present state of public opinion both in this House and in the country. I think it will be generally owned that, while there has been an indisposition in the members of this House, so far as I could collect their opinions, on whatever side of the House they sat, to undertake the consideration of this question, there has been in the country, not disapprobation of the measure that we proposed, but an indifference as to its being immediately urged forward. (*Cheers.*) I collect this fact, first from the absorbing interest which it evinced the people of this country take in the war that has now begun—an interest which is quickened by their feeling in favour of the power which is attacked, and against the aggressor in this war. I collect it, secondly, from the absence of manifestations in favour of reform by petitions presented to this House. I think there have not been more than eleven petitions of the kind presented to the House, and not more than four are in favour of the measure that is before the House. Now, sir, as I have said, I do not think this is to be attributed to disapprobation of the measure of the Government. (*Cheers.*) So far as I can learn, applying and asking in many quarters, the judgment passed on that measure is one of approbation. It has been considered that it extends very largely, but not unduly, the franchise to the people, and it has also been considered that, with regard to any penalties of disfranchisement it may contain, whether that disfranchisement is carried too far, or has far enough, or whatever may be the measure of it, it has at least been applied fairly, without any regard to party interests or feelings; and that therefore the Government measure is at least worthy of commendation in that respect. Whether or not its particular provisions are all well woven together, or whether every one of its clauses is to be approved—upon that I think neither the House nor the country is at present able to give an opinion, from that want of attention to its details which I have already mentioned, and that absorbing interest in the war to which I have already alluded. Sir, I cannot but think, and the Government have come to the same conclusion, that it would be unwise in us, whether as regards the general interests of the country, or whether as regards the interests of reform, on the part of those who wish to see the promotion of reform, if we were to press the second reading of this bill. I feel, and every one, I think, must feel, that there is great force in an observation which was made by the right honourable gentlemen opposite, the member for Buckinghamshire, that it is highly inconvenient that there should be a bill before the House containing provisions for the disfranchisement of seats for which members are present in this House, and who are constantly voting, and that there should be no decision come to by the House whether that proposed disfranchisement should be approved or disapproved—whether it should be carried into effect or be rejected. I am not at all disposed to diminish the weight of that objection to any postponement of this measure. I think likewise that it is a great disadvantage that her Majesty should have been twice advised—and I must confess that I myself have been one of the advisers in both instances—that her Majesty should have been advised to propose to her Parliament that measures for the improvement of the representation should be considered by Parliament, and that in neither instance in the session in which that proposal is made it should be taken seriously into consideration by Parliament. And I own that I cannot accept an excuse which has been made for the course that I am now declaring myself ready to adopt on the part of her Majesty's Government, namely, that the Government having matured a measure—having prepared its details, and laid it upon the table of the House, their part is accomplished, and their pledge has been fulfilled. I cannot but think that in all ordinary circumstances, having proposed such a measure, the Government would be bound, not only to lay it on the table, but to do their utmost to carry it, and, therefore, I should be sorry if it were supposed that we evaded any pledge that we have made upon that or any similar ground. But great as those inconveniences are, I must say that I think any other course would have been attended with greater evils, and with more palpable difficulties. We could hardly propose the second reading of the Reform Bill at this time without declaring our intention if defeated upon that measure, either to resign our offices at once, or to advise the Crown to proceed to an immediate dissolution of Parliament. But I cannot but think that either of these courses would, at the present moment, be attended with great danger.

certainly under ordinary circumstances it would follow—that 'Here is a Government proposing a measure which they think of essential importance—a measure which affects the representation of the country at large—in which great issues are involved; and they admit themselves that they are obliged not to go to a division in the course of the present session upon that measure. Their duty in all consistency should be to retire from the position which they occupy.' But here, again, a great duty intervenes. The Ministers of the Crown have lately brought down messages to both Houses of Parliament from the Crown, asking for the support of Parliament to the Crown at the commencement of an arduous, and it may be, a very protracted struggle. It would hardly be compatible with our duty—I may say it would not be compatible with our duty—without a case of the greatest necessity, to shrink from the posts which we occupy, and to decline that responsibility which belongs to the war in which we have engaged, and to the manner of carrying it on upon which we have deliberated.

calling it on upon which we have advocated.

"Such, then, being the case as regards this Reform Bill, and as regards the position of the Government, I may be asked and I am quite ready to give my answer to that question—'How stands the cause of reform itself, after what you have now stated?' Sir, the first thing I should say is, that the Government of Lord Aberdeen adopted the pledge which they gave in all sincerity, that they are ready to abide by that pledge, and that they hold themselves as bound to the principles of a reform in the representation as upon the first day when they entered office. With regard to any more specific pledge, I can only say that the Cabinet which adopted this reform measure see no reason to change their opinion with regard to the principles involved in that measure, with regard to the general scope and object which it has in view—that they consider themselves, in fact, as much approving of this measure as when they first brought it forward. They can, therefore, only say, when the opportunity presents itself, which they would be most willing to embrace, of again bringing forward a bill for the reform of the representation of the people—when Parliament can properly attend to the subject, that they will be ready to bring that measure forward—that they will be ready to bring it forward with all the weight of a Government—and endeavour to pass it. Of course, I do not mean that the observations which have been made upon the measure that we have brought forward should not receive our attention—that the modification of details should not be duly considered, before that measure is again introduced. It would be wrong to preclude the Cabinet from that consideration. I think we shall ill represent the people at large, and not pay due deference to public opinion, if we do not adopt such a course. (*Cheers*.) But to the principle of this measure we are ready to bind ourselves, and the Government remains as when it was first constituted—a Government based upon the proposal of a reform in the representation. Sir, the circumstances are new—they are unprecedented. A Government entering upon a war of the magnitude of that into which we have just entered, and at the same time proposing a measure as large as we have proposed for amending the representation of the people, I believe is a case that has not occurred in the constitutional history of this country. We are bound to consider our own sense of duty in the course that we are pursuing.

"Now, sir, may I be permitted to say some few words in reference, not only to the Government, but to my own position as the organ of the Government in this House. The course that I have just proposed is exposed to all those weapons of taunt and sarcasm which the right honourable gentlemen (Mr. Disraeli) whom I see opposite knows as well how to use. They are the fair weapons of opposition. I have been long used to them, and I trust that I should not complain if those weapons were wielded with even more than the skill and dexterity which we have hitherto witnessed. But, sir, it is a different thing with regard to those who, supporting the present Government, are attached, and earnestly attached, to reform in Parliament. With respect to them, I must say, while the statement that I have just made may be open to suspicion, that that suspicion can hardly be entertained without weakening, and in fine destroying, my position as the organ of the Government in this House. If I have done—[here Lord John appeared to be overcome with emotion, when loud and prolonged cheering arose from all parts of the House. He at length proceeded, at first with faltering accents:]—If I have done anything for the cause of reform, I trust that I may be deserving of some confidence. (*Cheers.*) At all events, I feel that if I have not that confidence, that I can be of no use to the Crown or to the country, and that I can no longer hold my present position. (*Revised cheers.*) Sir, these are times of no ordinary importance; and the questions which every man has now to solve for himself are questions of the utmost difficulty and anxiety. I have endeavoured to arrive at that conclusion which I believe to be the best for the interests of the Crown and of the country; and I trust that I shall be supported in the course which I have taken." (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

Expressions of sympathy and respect were given from all parts of the House. Sir EDWARD DERING commended Lord John for gallantly redeeming his pledge by proposing the bill, and for his display of moral courage in withdrawing a measure which circumstances beyond his control had rendered it improper to press. Mr. HUME, with reluctance, concurred in the course adopted, but he expressed his perfect confidence in Lord John. There was no alternative to that course. It would be disastrous either if Ministers resigned or dissolved Parliament; yet if they pressed the bill and met with defeat they must do either the one or the other. Mr. BRIGHT criticised the bill, and lectured Lord John on the necessity of giving more electoral power to the great towns, if he would evoke their support in favour of his next bill. Mr. LABOUCHERE could not refuse to himself the gratification of stating that Lord John had that day not only taken a course dictated by the soundest policy, but one which inspired fresh confi-

dence in those who looked up to him as their guide. Subsequently, Sir GEORGE GREY expressed the same opinions. Lord JOCKLYN and Lord HARRY VANE alike expressed their high sense of the conduct of Lord John.

Mr. DISRAELI began thus:—

"I think that her Majesty's Government have arrived at a sound and satisfactory conclusion in that which they have communicated to the House to-night, and I think the country is to be congratulated upon it. I am not, therefore, disposed to indulge in those sarcasms which the noble Lord anticipated on this occasion; and if the conduct of the Government with respect to other measures which I shall also feel it to be my duty to oppose be influenced by the same feeling and regulated by the same policy, I promise the noble Lord that he will experience from me an opposition as mitigated as on the present occasion. But, although sitting on this side of the House, I shall never shrink from exercising my best efforts to vindicate the opinions of my friends—*(Cheers)*—and to resist any measure I think obnoxious to the public welfare, if brought forward by the noble Lord. I can assure the noble Lord I am little disposed to-night, after the address he has made, to view with any spirit of acerbity the course of conduct he has adopted. *(Cheers.)* Although it has been my fate to be always opposite to the noble Lord, I can say, most sincerely, there is no one in this House has a more heartfelt respect for the noble Lord. *(Cheers.)* I think his character and career are precious possessions of the House of Commons—*(Cheers)*—and I am sure that the Members of the House of Commons will always cherish them. *(Cheers.)* Wherever the noble Lord sits, I am sure he will be accompanied by the respect of every member of this House—*(Cheers)*—and I think the manner in which to-night he has made what was evidently a painful communication to the House is in every way worthy of the noble Lord."

Mr. Disraeli then proceeded to show by elaborate rhetoric, that the excuses of Lord John were not sound; that, in fact, the circumstances of the country when Ministers took office (in 1852) were not much less menacing than they are now, and that when the bill was brought in the war difficulty was apparent. His object was to insinuate that Ministers had only used the reform pledge as a means of getting support, and that they were not united enough to fulfil it. The opposition to the measure came from behind the Treasury benches and within the Cabinet.

The debate was closed by Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT in vindication of the Government; and Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, who eulogised the conduct of Lord John.

The motion was agreed to.

THE PUBLIC FINANCES.

Mr. GLADSTONE made a kind of supplementary financial statement, on Tuesday, rendered necessary, in his opinion, by the fact that he had not had before an opportunity of making an accurate statement of the income and expenditure of the past year.

He laid the balance-sheet on the table, and said that it had been his intention to make a statement respecting its details, but Mr. Disraeli had moved for more information on the subject, and therefore he thought it would be better to avoid all topics of debate, and to confine himself to matters of fact. Considering the discussion which had occupied the principal part of the evening, he should be very brief. An examination of the balance-sheet would show that there was an increase of 749,000*l.* on which he had estimated on the 6th of March, but this did not arise from any substantial change of circumstances, one portion of the excess arising from income-tax, and the question being only one of the time of money arriving at the Exchequer, and the other portion was from the Customs revenue, from an exceptional cause—the anticipated reduction of the tea duties. The excess of income over expenditure was 3,524,000*l.*; on the 6th of March he had estimated the surplus at 2,854,000*l.*, but, for reasons which he showed, he proposed that the present surplus should be taken at 3,000,000*l.* The result was satisfactory, as indicative of the condition of trade and industry, and of the people, the more so that trade must have suffered some contraction, or at least retardation of progress, by political events. Moreover, last year we had remitted 2,600,000*l.* of taxes and laid on others; but while the former operation, that of relief, had entirely taken effect, the receipts from the latter had only partially come in. He then adverted to the state of the public balances, and said that on the 5th of April, 1853, there was in the Exchequer 7,859,000*l.*, while on the same date in 1854 there was 2,778,000*l.*, or a decrease of 5,081,000*l.*; and he showed how this sum had been applied, in part of a much larger amount, in paying of funded debt advances for public works, and reduction of the unfunded debt. He entered into an explanation of the subject of the deficiency bills, in order to remove the false impression on the minds even of well-informed persons, that these represented the accommodation given by the Bank to the Government, and proved that they were a mode of showing when certain charges became anticipated. He stated that, having taken legal advice as to his competency to do so, he had taken measures for regulating the mode of issuing these bills, and thereby, instead of the amount being 5,500,000*l.*, it had been reduced, up to the preceding day, to

2,800,000*l.*, subject, moreover, to a cash deduction. Under the present extraordinary circumstances he thought that this amount ought to be reduced, which in other times might not be necessary, but he reiterated that it was this last sum only which represented the amount of Bank accommodation, and that the larger sum was but a matter of account. There was nothing more erroneous than the supposition that the demands of Government had tended to restrict the means of the London money market, the exact contrary, as he showed, being the case; the disbursements of the Government having added to the loanable capital of the country 8,000,000*l.* while what had been withdrawn was, up to yesterday, 2,129,000*l.* He next disposed of a belief that there was some unwritten compact with the Bank, made in 1844, to the effect that demands were not to be made on the Bank in regard to the deficiency bills, and stated that there was, on the contrary, a full and carefully drawn agreement, providing that if there was a diminution of the public balances below what was usual, the Bank was to have a claim on the Government for interest, and if there were an excess, the Government would have a claim to share the profit. He then went to the consideration of the unfunded debt, and stated the amount of Exchequer-bills which Government was allowed to issue at 17,774,000*l.*, and the actual issue at 16,600,000*l.*, so that they were short of the maximum they were entitled to issue by the sum of 1,174,000*l.* He expected to have to make no further demand for authority, and probably might not even have to issue all that had been granted. He referred to the satisfactory state of public credit, which he illustrated by reference, first, to the price of public securities here in comparison with that of foreign securities; and, secondly, to the price of our funds now, as compared with what it had been in former times. In years of peace, and not of extraordinary distress, Consols had gone much lower than they had been at the close on the preceding night, namely, 88½. He made a similar comparison in the case of Exchequer-bills. He closed his statement by summing up the points he had sought to establish, namely, that the state of the revenue was satisfactory, that the demands of the Government on the Bank ought not to inspire fear, that there had been no diminution of commerce in consequence, that the unfunded debt was moderate in extent, and that public credit was in a state which might well make us feel thankful, considering the existing circumstances. He moved that the balance-sheet should lie on the table.

Mr. DISRAELI's motion for returns had no connexion with the present motion, but was merely a continuation of a motion he had made early in the year. He would not go into a word of argument, but he wished to show that he had been justified in the anticipations he had formerly expressed as to the balance of the debt, and as to the amount of the deficiency bills. Having briefly sought to prove this, he said that the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the deficiency bills was far from satisfactory, and that the Exchequer was actually minus the six millions required for the public service, ingeniously as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had glossed the subject over. He read evidence in support of his view in regard to recourse being had to these bills, and urged it was most undesirable that at such a crisis Government should habitually do that to which the evidence he had read attributed the panic of 1847.

Mr. THOMAS BARING said, that the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he was going to make a statement, had in itself caused much apprehension in the City as regarded what he might be going to do. Mr. Baring saw no cause for any apprehension as regarded the national credit, but hoped that in future operations more caution would be exercised than heretofore. His fear of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's system was, that the keystone of his policy was, relying not upon income that had come in, but that which had to come in—in fact, upon advances.

Mr. LAING had heard much of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech with satisfaction, and thought that good had been done by disabusing the public mind on the subject of the deficiencies; but on the system of drawing even the sum which had been admitted he was disposed to agree with Mr. Baring. The question was now how to replenish the balances, and he was in favour of having recourse to a loan for replacing that part of the National Debt that had been paid off.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY concurred in this latter view.

Mr. GLADSTONE replied, vindicating his own statements against the misrepresentations of other speakers, especially denying that he was an habitual borrower, that being the first quarter he had ever borrowed at all, or that he had made borrowing the key-stone of his finance, though he had said that a moderate use of deficiency bills was a good practice, in a case where revenue was not equably coming in and flowing out. But the real key-stone of his finance was the asking the House to provide an income more than necessary for the expenditure for the year, the question of keeping a greater or lesser

amount at your banker's being one for discussion. Suggestions as to means for replenishing the balance had been suggested, but the statement he had made that night was only a retrospective one, and it would be absurd in him then to enter into the question as to what might be found necessary for the service of the year.

Motion agreed to, and the House rose for the Easter recess.

WAR MATTERS.

Questions were put in both Houses, on Tuesday, with a view to elicit information on matters regarding the war. In the House of Peers Lord BEAUMONT was the questioner, and he put a set of questions to Lord CLARENDON, all of which are sufficiently indicated in the following interesting reply:—

"My lords, I do full justice to the forbearance of my noble friend, and admit that he has in general carefully abstained from putting to the Government any questions that might tend to their embarrassment; but I must be allowed to say that on the present occasion he has made up for any previous neglect or delay by putting a long series of questions. My principal difficulty will consist not in answering, but in remembering them. I think the first question of my noble friend had reference to the protocol which he said had recently been signed, and the production of which he desires. That protocol was only signed the day before yesterday at Vienna, and as yet we have only seen the draft of it, which reached us yesterday. I think the protocol is of a satisfactory character. It is not precisely that which we originally desired, and that which the Austrian Government agreed to in the form of a convention; but it has been framed to meet the wishes of the Prussian Government, and I must say that it substantially contains all the convention. The assent of Prussia was readily given to this convention and protocol, and it was signed on Sunday last. It has not yet arrived in a complete shape, otherwise there would not have been the slightest difficulty in laying it upon the table; but as soon as the House meets again, I have no doubt we shall be able to produce it. With respect to the first rumour to which my noble friend alluded—that of Prussia having gone over altogether to Russia—I can assure him there is not the slightest foundation for it, and I believe there is not the slightest ground of apprehension. I certainly wish that the temper and tone of the debates in the Chamber at Berlin had been rather different from what they were; but sometimes there are rather strong exhibitions of temper in your lordships' House (laughter)—and I hope my noble friend will not consider the Prussian Government responsible for the tone of the Prussian Chamber. Although the tone and result may not have been what we expected or desired, I think it is sufficiently manifest, both from the proceedings in the Chamber and the proceedings of the Government, that the state of things which my noble friend apprehended—of Prussia passing over to Russia—is impossible. With regard to the rumour that my noble friend says has been circulated in London, which, if true, must be a matter of very great regret—the recital of Chevalier Bunsen—I certainly have heard the same rumour, and he has also heard it, but as yet he has no positive knowledge of the fact. The only thing that was said was, that there was likely to be another special mission sent over here—something of the same nature as that assembled three weeks ago, and which would probably be attended with the same results. With respect to the treaty that has been signed—the new convention between Prussia and Austria—I am not able to give the information which my noble friend desires, because that treaty has not yet been communicated to her Majesty's Government. All that I have heard respecting it is, that it passed from Austria to Prussia, and was carried there by General Hess. I believe it has been concluded not exactly in the terms Austria proposed, but I do not know that it has been ratified or agreed to. I believe it is offensive and defensive with respect to any attack which may be made on Germany. My noble friend alluded to the fleet in the Black Sea. The last information that we have received states that the whole of the combined fleet was at Kavarna; and even before the news was received of the passage of the Danube by the Russian forces, as it was to be expected in the Lower Danube that the passage might be attempted, this movement took place. Since then, information has been received that the news of the passage of the Danube has reached the admirals, and they have despatched steamers in the direction of Kostandjee, to communicate with the Turkish military authorities, and to afford them all the assistance in their power. We have received no information of any Austrian troops having entered Servia. Some time since a communication was received from the Austrian Government, stating that an Austrian *corps d'armée* would enter Servia if the Russians crossed into Servia, or if the Servian insurrection continued; but that the occupation would be solely for the purpose of maintaining the *status quo*, and upholding the authority of the Sultan."

REPORTED SEIZURE OF SIR HAMILTON SEYMOUR'S PROPERTY.

Lord LYNCHURST wished to call the attention of her Majesty's Government to a report which had been current for the last two days, to the effect that the Russian authorities had seized the property of the late able and most excellent Minister at St. Petersburg. He hoped there was no foundation whatever for the report. If it was true, it was such a gross violation of the admitted law of nations as could scarcely be expected from Russia as a civilised State. He hoped some Minister would give an explanation of the affair.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said, in the absence of his noble friend the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, he might state that he entirely agreed in the construction which Lord Lynchurst had so justly given of the character of the proceeding to which he had alluded, if such a proceeding had taken place. He could only say that up to a very late hour Lord Clarendon had received no information on the sub-

ject. Of course, if information had not reached the Foreign-office it would be impossible to give any explanation.

Lord LYNCHURST believed that Sir Hamilton Seymour had stated the fact to some noble lords now present.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said perhaps Sir Hamilton Seymour might have received such information, but the Government had not.

[Writing to the *Times*, Sir Hamilton Seymour says:—"The question affecting my interests appears to be not whether certain cases which I left at St. Petersburg, and which contain pictures, ornamental furniture, books, linen, and other articles of value are to be seized and confiscated, but whether their shipment on board the *Anne M'Alister*, the only English vessel remaining at Cronstadt, is to be permitted. According to the last advice, the question has been determined against me; but, as I am bound to infer that the decision must have been taken upon erroneous grounds, I still entertain the hope that it may be reconsidered and revised."]

COLONIAL CHURCH.

A discussion, clearly for purposes of opposition merely, was transacted in committee on the Colonial Disabilities Bill, on Monday, occupying the House over four lines for no less than five hours.

The bill consists only of one clause, and indemnifies the metropolitan of any province, or the bishop of any diocese in the colonies, with his clergy and the lay members of the Church of England for attending meetings to regulate ecclesiastical affairs.

Mr. DUNLOP moved to substitute for "metropolitan of any province, or bishop of any diocese," the words "bishops and clergy," being one of a series of amendments the object of which was to guard against giving indirectly a legislative sanction to a preference to the Church of England in the colonies over any other religious denomination there.

The debate upon this amendment extended, not only to the whole scope and principle of the bill, but to the essential character and status of the Church of England in the colonies.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, who had charge of the bill, offered to modify the terms of the clause so as to obviate the objection of Mr. Dunlop. The opponents of the amendment called for a division, when the amendment was carried by 81 to 34.

Mr. DUNLOP then moved another amendment, to leave out the words "within such province or diocese," and insert "notwithstanding such bishops and clergy having been respectively consecrated and ordained by bishops of the said United Church."

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL could not at all assent to the words now proposed, but he would agree to such an alteration in the indemnity clause as that, instead of enacting that "no statute, law, rule, usage, or authority of the United Kingdom shall extend or be construed to prevent the metropolitan of any province or the bishop of any diocese in the colonies of her Majesty, together with his clergy and the lay persons of such province or diocese, being members of the United Church of England and Ireland," from meeting together from time to time to regulate their ecclesiastical affairs, the clause should run thus, "No statute, law, rule, usage, or other authority of the United Kingdom shall extend or be construed to prevent the bishops and clergy in the colonies of her Majesty and the lay members of the congregations of such clergy, being members of the United Church of England and Ireland from holding such meetings."

Nearly all the members who spoke in opposition affected not to understand the bill.

Mr. DUNLOP pressed his amendment; and it was negatived by 78 to 43.

Finally the SOLICITOR-GENERAL agreed to take the bill home with him and re-consider it;—the chairman reported progress, and the committee was ordered to sit again on the 24th April.

PUBLIC BUSINESS AFTER EASTER.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved that during the remainder of the session orders of the day should have precedence of notices of motion upon Thursdays. He wished to take that opportunity of stating, that if that motion was acceded to he should propose this evening that the Oxford University Bill be committed *pro forma*, in order to its being recommitted on Thursday, the 27th inst., and that on the 1st of May his right honourable friend the President of the Board of Trade would move that the House go into committee on the Railway Bill. A question had been asked of his right honourable friend the President of the Poor-law Board, with respect to the Settlement and Removal Bill, which was fixed for the 28th of April. He was in hopes that his right hon. friend would have been present in the House to-night, but as he was not, he (Lord John Russell) would therefore say that it was not proposed to go on with that bill in the course of the present session. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") The Government proposed, however, that his right honourable friend should move for a select committee to consider the law and practice with regard to the removal of Irish paupers from England and Scotland, and of Scotch and English paupers from Ireland.

Motion agreed to.

JUVENILE REFORMATORIES.—Mr. ADDERLEY wished

to know whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce any measure this session to enable the Government to make use of reformatories for children established voluntarily, and also to give magistrates power to commit children to such places, and make allowance for their maintenance.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Sir J. PAKINGTON wished to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether it was true that the House of Assembly of Newfoundland had lately refused to proceed with business unless responsible government was conceded to that colony; and whether her Majesty's Ministers had consented to establish responsible government in Newfoundland, and, if so, upon what conditions?

Mr. PEEL said, the Assembly of Newfoundland, at the commencement of the present session, had passed a resolution that they would not do any business with the council till the decision of the Government with regard to the application made by the Assembly last year for freer institutions was made known. But meanwhile, before the Government were aware of the course taken by the Assembly, they forwarded a despatch expressing their readiness to concede responsible government to Newfoundland as soon as certain conditions had been complied with. These conditions were, that the holders of existing offices being liable to displacement should be indemnified; that the number of the members of the Assembly should be raised from fifteen to thirty, not by doubling the number of representatives of the different districts, but by a subdivision of those districts; and, lastly, that the salaries of members and the expenses of candidates for election should not be paid out of the colonial treasury, but by local assessment on the different districts.

Lord PALMERSTON said Mr. Adderley was good enough to send to him the other day the draft of a bill which was prepared with a view to the accomplishment of the purpose referred to in his question; but he was sorry to say other avocations had prevented him from giving it the requisite amount of attention. In the principle of the bill he entirely concurred; and he would take an early opportunity of informing the hon. gentleman whether the Government were prepared to introduce it themselves, or would give it their support in case he himself should bring it in as an independent member.

CASE OF MR. STONOR.—Sir G. GREY reported from the Committee of Selection that the following members had been named as the committee to investigate the circumstances connected with the appointment of Mr. Stonor to a judgeship at Melbourne:—Mr. Sotherton, Mr. Bonham Carter, Mr. Gaskell, Mr. Horsman, and Sir J. Duckworth, chairman.

UNAUTHORISED NEGOTIATIONS.

THE following is a copy of Lord Campbell's bill, intitled "An Act to prevent any unauthorised Negotiation or Intercourse touching Public Affairs between the subjects of her Majesty and any foreign Potentate, or State."

"Whereas by the law of nations intercourse between independent nations respecting the political acts of the governments of such nations ought to be carried on only through the governments of such nations, or through the agency of ambassadors or ministers duly appointed for that purpose; and whereas it is expedient that the observance of the said law should be enforced by the municipal law of this realm; be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

"1. If any subject or subjects of her Majesty shall after the passing of this act, without the authority of her Majesty, or leave for that purpose granted in writing to him or them by one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state, present to any foreign potentate, or the government of any foreign state, any address from or professing to come from any portion of her Majesty's subjects touching any act of her Majesty's government or of the government of such potentate or state, or touching any negotiation on public affairs pending between her Majesty's government and the government of such potentate or state, or the policy to be pursued on public affairs between her Majesty's government and the government of such potentate or state, or shall, representing or professing to represent any portion of her Majesty's subjects, by any other means enter into any negotiation, correspondence, or intercourse with any such potentate or state touching any of the matters aforesaid, the persons so offending shall be and they are hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanour.

"2. All offences against this act may be inquired of, tried, determined, and dealt with, as if the same had been respectively committed within the body of the county of Middlesex."

ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE following instructions have been addressed to Captain Maguire, of the *Plover*, now engaged in the Arctic Regions in the search for Sir John Franklin's expedition:—

"Admiralty, Jan. 11, 1854.

"Sir,—My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, by their instructions to you, dated the 15th of February, 1853, and transmitted to Behring's Strait by her Majesty's ship *Amphitrite*, directed the return of her Majesty's sloop *Plover*, under your command, from the winter quarters at Point Barrow to Grantley Harbour, so soon as the season of 1854 would permit. I am now commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that Captain McClure, in her Majesty's ship *Investigator*, arrived at a harbour on the north-east shore of Banks' Land, on the 24th of Sep-

tember, 1851, and subsequently communicated with Melville Island, thereby insuring the safety of the crew of that ship.

"By your letter of the 21st of August last it appears that her Majesty's ship *Enterprise* had been seen by the natives of the northern shore of America, near the Colville River, in August, 1851. If Captain Collinson should have found the same extent of open water along that shore as was experienced by Captain McClure, and if he pursued the same track, their Lordships have reason to expect that he may have been enabled to reach a position to the eastward of Cape Bathurst, and thence, by means of travelling parties, to have obtained, from the records left by the officers of the *Investigator*, information of the proceedings of that ship as a guide to his future plans.

"In whatever position the *Enterprise* may at this time be placed, it is obvious that in the ensuing spring (1854) Captain Collinson, from the reduced state of his supplies, will be compelled to abandon his ship. It may be presumed that, if to the eastward of the Mackenzie River, and having found the records of Captain McClure, he will push on with his crew to the north-eastward, with the view of reaching Melville Island, or he may divide his ship's company, and send one portion by the Mackenzie River, with the intention of reaching the Hudson's-bay posts.

"If, however, by any unfortunate accident the *Enterprise* has been lost, it is by no means improbable that Captain Collinson may have returned to the *Plover*. If such should have been the case, there will exist no further necessity for the detention of the *Plover* and *Rattlesnake* at Behring's Strait, and my Lords desire you will accordingly proceed to San Francisco and Valparaiso to wait their further orders.

"But should no further information have reached you respecting the *Enterprise* since she was reported off the Colville, it will be necessary for you to consider the expediency of remaining for another season at Point Barrow, with the view of affording assistance to Captain Collinson and his crew, should he still be compelled to fall back on the *Plover*. On this point we are unable, from want of information relative to your proceedings since August last, and the further tidings you may have gained respecting the *Enterprise*, to give you any definite instructions; their Lordships entirely rely on your judgment as to the necessity of your remaining another year. They desire me to acquaint you that the *Plover* and *Rattlesnake* are now detained solely on account of, and to afford assistance to, Captain Collinson and the crew of the *Enterprise*. If you feel certain that the crew of that ship is safe, you are hereby directed to discontinue your present service and to return to Valparaiso. If you should, however, after full deliberation, deem it to be essentially necessary to extend the services of the *Plover* to another winter, it is their Lordships' directions that you should exchange any of your officers or men, revictual the ship, and again proceed to Point Barrow, provided the ship and your crew are efficient; but so soon as the season of 1855 will admit, that you proceed to Grantley Harbour, and thence to San Francisco and Valparaiso, for further orders. You are distinctly to understand that it is not their Lordships' intention to send up a ship from the Pacific station to communicate with Grantley Harbour in 1855, and you are therefore positively to leave Behring's Strait in that year, as directed.

"In case of your not being able to place the *Plover* in the harbour at Point Barrow, or in any other safe position north of Grantley Harbour, you may return to that port (Grantley Harbour), and, having deposited all spare provisions and stores with her Majesty's ship *Rattlesnake*, you may at once proceed to Valparaiso as before directed, as there does not exist any necessity for retaining two ships at that port, Commander Trollope having been directed to continue there until the summer of 1855, as per copy of the enclosed orders.

"In the event of any accident having occurred to the *Plover*, rendering her unseaworthy, or of her having been, on survey, found unfit for further service, my Lords desire that the ship be placed in some safe position as a depot, to afford shelter to any travelling or other party, and that you proceed, with the officers and crew, on board her Majesty's ship *Rattlesnake*, or whatever ship which may have been sent from Valparaiso, and consider yourself as a passenger in that ship.

"In the event of England being at any time involved in hostilities with any other Power during your employment on the above service, you are clearly to understand that you are not to commit any hostile act whatever, the ship under your command being fitted out for the sole purpose of aiding those engaged in scientific discoveries, and it being the established practice of all civilised nations to consider vessels so employed as exempt from the operations of war.

"I am, &c.,

"W. A. B. HAMILTON.

"To Commander Maguire, her Majesty's Sloop *Plover*."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE chief event abroad has been the debate in the Prussian Second Chamber, on the demand of the Ministers for the loan of thirty millions of thalers. There were several propositions before the chamber. The Minister proposed an unconditional grant of the loan. A party of the centre wished to assent to the loan, and convey at the same time an expression of their approval of the steps taken by the Government in conjunction with the Western Powers. Von Vincke and the Radicals would only assent to the loan on condition that the Government went with the Western Powers into war with Russia. The debate was opened by M. Mantuffel, the Prime Minister, who spoke as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—The King's Government, in consequence of the great political events in the midst of which Europe is placed, and the menacing dangers of war, has demanded from the Chamber the credit it requires to place on active service the entire war force of the country. Three weeks ago, when the proposition was introduced, the proof that this danger existed might perhaps have been demanded. But at present every journal states the great warlike armaments which the European powers are making, and the proof is no longer necessary. There now only arises this simple question—Will you, in the midst of this danger, accord to the Government the means of vigorously meeting it? Or will you refuse them? You have the full right to take either course. Before your committee I gave in detail, and with frankness, explanations on the march of political events, and on the position of Prussia; I did so because I believed that those explanations might be supplied without prejudice to the country, because I wished to refuse to let anything which could exercise an influence on the vote of the Chamber, and because I believed it useful to combat erroneous ideas, and to throw true light on the policy of Prussia, which has been from the first an independent policy, and which had for its object the re-establishment of peace. To the report of the committee, which I will not repeat, I will only add one new fact. It is that a new protocol of the Four Powers, which sets forth their common efforts, has been settled between the Plenipotentiaries of the Four Powers at Vienna, and that, two days ago, the Prussian envoy was authorised to sign it. At the moment at which you enter on this discussion, the Government will not leave any doubt as to the manner in which it will regard the votes to be given. The Government must consider a conditional vote as a refusal, for it thinks it right to obtain the credit demanded at the present moment. The object sought would fail if the Ministry were to have its hands tied at a moment at which it is essential to have them free. The Government cannot and will not pursue a policy which will engage it for the future, because it considers that such a policy would be injurious to the country. Have confidence in the Government; it will make the best use of this credit. If you demand guarantees—if you seek others than those offered by the past and the present, you have the right to reply 'No' to the demand of the Government, and I have no need to say what influence that 'No' would exercise. If you resolve to do otherwise, then give us a firm and energetic 'Yes!' as a proof that however divergent opinions may be here, yet that danger, when it threatens, will always find an united Prussia."

Hereupon another M. Mantuffel (brother of the Premier) rose, and denied the right of the Chamber to judge of the foreign policy of the Government at all. The army would give its blood without making conditions: let them imitate its example.

M. Bethmann Holweg, leader of the old Prussian party, said—Russia is striving for the government of the world. She must be reduced to reason, and it is especially Prussia's business to do it. The sentiment of royal relationship is a very respectable one, but state policy ought not to follow sentiment. Russia is under great obligation to Prussia, and she repays us by closing her frontier to our commerce, and treating our state with contempt. The Russian party among us having failed to engage us in an alliance with Russia now stands up for neutrality: as if Prussia could remain neutral in the midst of combatants. Prussia has but one part to take—she must join the Western Powers, or rather Europe, to sustain the right. (*Prolonged applause.*) I am delighted to hear that a good understanding is established with Austria. But why not state the grounds of this agreement? Prussia hesitates always. Woe to the country if in this case it decides only at the moment of danger, and when it is too late. "I trust, gentlemen," said the speaker, "with confidence, not in equivocal words nor in men who bend with the willow in the wind, but in the irresistible current of events."

The speech, which produced the greatest sensation, was that of M. de Vincke. This gentleman was repeatedly cheered, and when he had concluded, the effect was so great that the sitting was suspended for several minutes. M. de Vincke said:—

"It has been said that the character of the Emperor of Russia ought to reassure us. I have the greatest esteem for his character, and I declare that it is not true that he has acted with perfidy. He has always said what he desired, and he has now attempted what he desired. He addressed England, whom he respected most. Since his accession to the throne he has been arrested neither by romantic sentiments nor by bonds of relationship. He has been guided alone by the consideration of what the grandeur and power of his country called for, and in that respect he has certainly distinguished himself amongst his peers. He wants to hold the key of his own house, as Peter the Great expressed it; and no one can blame him in the Russian point of view. But we, gentlemen, have to look at our interest in a Prussian point of view. If Russia should seize on the Bosphorus and the Sound, she becomes invincible, and you have a direct interest in opposing it. If you are an European power, you ought to oppose such projects most energetically; if you are not, you ought the more to join those who can defend your weakness. Russia is the most powerful neighbour of Prussia, and her territory runs into ours. For a length of time, Russia covets our Eastern provinces; meanwhile she

is cutting into the veins of our commerce. Russia was against us in the Seven Years' War. In 1813 she wanted to have the Eastern provinces swear allegiance to her. In 1850 she menaced us with war. It is known that an influential party in Russia wants the Vistula for frontier. Remember the saying of the Great Frederick—"If the Russians are at Constantinople, in a week after they will be seen at Koenigsberg." The ties of relationship have been spoken of, but I think too well of our monarch to admit that he can sacrifice the interest of the country to considerations which have never weighed with the Emperor of Russia. The question of religion has been put forward in this matter, but every one now knows, since the Anglo-Russian correspondence has been published, that the real question is the inheritance of the 'sick man.' Besides, who does not know what persecutions the dissenting sects, the Catholic and Protestant religions, have been subjected to in Russia. Imprisonment and Siberia are the fate of the Christian missionaries. It is, in fact, a system of the most cruel intolerance that can even be imagined. Others have placed Russia in opposition to revolution, whilst it is she who has always spread revolution in neighbouring countries—in Poland, in Sweden, and at this moment in Turkey. Russia, besides, has herself revolutions at home. In order to have revolutions it is not necessary that kings should be killed in the open day or by the guillotine. To represent Russia as the natural bulwark against revolution is a sophism of the specific party; it is not the inspiration of good sense. Russia has been called the oldest ally of Prussia. That is not the case. We have had more ancient alliances with England, with France, and with Turkey herself. And how did this old ally treat us? In 1807 she took advantage of our misfortunes to appropriate to herself a province. In 1815, she prevented Alsace from being again united to Germany. In 1829, she wished to give to the Bourbons the left bank of the Rhine, in order to obtain Constantinople in exchange. In 1850, she recommended England to declare war against us; and if England, then as now full of honour, refused, it was not the fault of our good old ally, who, in the correspondence which was lately brought to light, made no mention of Prussia. And then, gentlemen, can we forget the conferences of Warsaw, which broke the heart of the man (the Count de Brandenburg) whose place the present President of the Council now fills. The true policy of Prussia should, therefore, tend to emancipate us from Russia. If the Government, before Russia had crossed the Pruth, had declared against her, we should have had peace at this moment. Protocols no longer suffice. A great power should co-operate in the execution of what it regards as being the basis of right. Instead of that, Prussia has made herself the European postman, carries propositions of peace here, and propositions of peace there; asks Austria what she intends to do, and finishes by guaranteeing to that Power her Italian possessions by extending the treaty of May 16, 1851. The State of Frederick may dispense with Austrian direction. I, nevertheless, consider that at this moment the interests of Prussia and Austria are identical, and there is reason for congratulation that the magnanimous Emperor of Austria has at length resolved on drawing the sword. The Prussian Government, while it professes not to confine itself to neutrality, finds itself, in fact, in that condition, and condemns the country to powerlessness. France and England cannot in the end recognise Prussian neutrality. It will end by involving us in a war with these two powers, and, supposing it to be a successful one, it will only turn to the advantage of Russia, which will, notwithstanding, never pardon the little sympathy that has been shown towards her by Prussia.

Von Gerlach openly espoused the cause of Russia, and derided the assumption of the Chamber that it could interfere in foreign policy. He was booed, however, and called to order. Finally, the Chamber, rejecting the other motions, adopted that of the Minister. But it was sufficiently evident by the votes and cheers that the majority heartily opposed the Russian policy of the Court.

While these debates have shown at least the reticence of the Prussian Court, and the real of the Chevalier Bunsen has displayed something more, the Minister of Prussia has joined with the other representatives of the Four Powers in signing another protocol at Vienna. The contents of this protocol are understood to be in brief:—The Four Powers remain united for the attainment of the double end—1, of the preservation of the territorial independence of Turkey, of which the evacuation of the Danubian Principalities remains, and will continue to remain, one of the most essential conditions; 2, of the consolidation of the religious and civil rights of the Christian subjects of the Porte, in conformity with the noble intentions conceived by the Sultan.

Further it is reported, that on Friday the treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, between Prussia and Austria, as negotiated between Baron von Manteuffel and Baron von Hess, was concluded, and the document forwarded to Vienna the same evening for ratification. The gist of this treaty may be succinctly stated thus:—Both States bind themselves to the reciprocal defence of their present territorial possessions and the protection of the interests of both of them. Prussia more particularly declares her readiness, in case Austria should see herself compelled to take warlike steps for the protection of her own and German interests, to employ her military forces to cover her flank or rear.

The Prussian Government has sent back the draft of the treaty of alliance, hampered with conditions which, if accepted, would defeat its purpose, and bind Austria to neutrality. The Austrian Cabinet has refused to agree to them.

The *Zeit*, a Ministerial and most moderate and well-informed journal, contained, on Saturday morning last, the following in its leading column:—"The *National Zeitung* contains, under the head of Danzig, the most extraordinary announcement that General Field-Marshal Count Dolina (recently promoted and appointed Minister of the Royal Household) did, on his way through that city, and in a conversation held with the corps of officers, declare that 'he hoped to march into Paris a third time.' We know not (continues the *Zeit*) whether the above communication rests on authentic grounds; under every circumstance we it so,

we hold it to be our duty not to attach any ostensible importance thereto. Should the Field-Marshal entertain hopes of this or that nature, these are matters that concern himself alone. But if they were uttered publicly, or upon an occasion calculated to produce misconception, their refutation becomes a duty. Prussia is upon friendly terms, and is at peace with France. We believe we may affirm in the most positive terms that the bellicose hopes of the Field-Marshal are in no way connected with the resolutions or intentions of his Majesty's Government."

A decree of the Senate of Hamburg, of the 10th, prohibits the export of articles contraband of war. Similar decrees have been issued at Lubeck and Bremen.

Hanover goes most decidedly with England, and therefore is ready to support Austria against Prussia, should the Eastern question come before the Federal Diet. All the secondary and minor German Governments, except Bavaria, are of the same mind, and will bring the subject before the Diet, should not Prussia shortly agree to abandon its neutrality.

Prince Barclay de Tolly proceeds to London on a special mission.

The intelligence from Paris is second only in interest to the debate in the Prussian Chamber. The Duke of Cambridge, accompanied by Lord Raglan, Lord De Ros, Colonels Steele, Tyrwhitt, and Somerset, and Majors the Honourable James Macdonald and Wellesley, attended by a numerous suite, arrived at Calais on Tuesday morning at one o'clock, where they were received by the Hon. H. Howard, attached to the British embassy, and the Vicomte de Toulougon, and immediately left by a special train for Paris, where they arrived about nine o'clock. Lord Cowley and Marshal Vaillant, the Minister of War, were in waiting to receive them. A guard of honour of the Gendarmes d'Elite was stationed at the railway terminus, and court carriages were in attendance for the Prince and his suite. After a few minutes' delay, the distinguished travellers were conveyed to the British embassy, where they partook of a slight refreshment; and at one o'clock three Imperial State carriages were in waiting to conduct them to the Tuilleries, under an escort from the regiment of Guides. They were heartily cheered during the passage by a considerable crowd assembled in the streets, some of whom cried "Vive les Anglais!" On leaving the Tuilleries, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Raglan, and suite proceeded to visit Prince Jerome at the Palais Royal. In the evening the Royal Duke, Lord Raglan, and the principal officers of their respective staffs, dined at the Tuilleries.

On Wednesday a grand review in honour of the Duke of Cambridge took place in the Champ de Mars. The time was one o'clock; but long before multitudes, longing to witness a spectacle which Frenchmen always love so much, but which possessed the additional novelty of the presence of an English Prince, thronged to the long familiar spot. At half-past eleven o'clock the troops were in movement. Along the Boulevards, and quays on both sides of the river, the bands of military music and the rolling of artillery carriages were heard as the various regiments successively passed on. The manufactories and the workshops sent forth their occupants; for the roll of a drum or the blast of a trumpet always stirs the heart of the Frenchman. As each regiment passed, crowds continued to issue from every lane and street, drew up at each side and, accompanied with measured step, and in serried rank, the military cortege. At twelve o'clock the various corps of the army of Paris debouched from the Bridge of Jena, and the avenue of the Mothe-Piquet, and took up their positions on the ground. Between the bridge and the Ecole Militaire, throughout the entire length of the Champ de Mars, with their right resting on the bridge, extended five lines of infantry, forming two divisions of two brigades each, and one brigade of reserve. The whole of the infantry, counting 24 battalions, and four companies of engineers—about 18,000 men in all—were under the orders of General Levasseur, assisted by Renault and Bourgon, Generals of Division; and Marulay, Repond, Ripert, Esterhazy, and Courand, Generals of Brigade. Those five lines were composed of three battalions of Chasseurs, five of light infantry, 13 battalions of the line, and three of the Paris Guards and the Gendarmes d'Elite. The cavalry, forming two divisions, four brigades, and 45 squadrons—namely, eight of Chasseurs, four of Hussars, six of Guides, eight of Dragons, eight of Cuiraissiers, eight of Carabiniers, and three of the mounted Gendarmes—drew up in four lines in front of the infantry, with their right resting on the Ecole Militaire, their left on the Bridge of Jena, and leaving a large open space in front of the grand stand. These 45 splendid squadrons were under the command of General Korte, assisted by Ferap, Gado, Marion, and the Duke de Montebello, Generals of Brigade. Between the left of the infantry and the right of the cavalry, in one single line, with the Ecole Militaire to the rear, and fronting the Bridge of Jena, were stationed seven batteries of artillery—six foot and one horse, with 42 guns, under the orders of Brigadier-General Vial. The total of the force under arms might be about 25,000 men.

At half-past 12 o'clock the Empress issued from the gates of the Tuilleries in an open carriage, preceded by outriders, accompanied by the ladies of the Court, and followed by another open carriage, with the officers of her household, and passed slowly along the quays of the Tuilleries, and the quay Billy, to the Bridge of Jena, which she crossed, and proceeded to the grand stand in the Champ de Mars, where she and her attendants took their places. At one o'clock the Emperor made his appearance at the Bridge of Jena. He had on his right hand the Duke of Cambridge, and on the left Lord Raglan, followed by a numerous staff, composed of English and French officers, all in full dress. As they made their appearance in the Champ de Mars the drums beat to arms, and the bands struck up "God save the Queen," and "Partant pour la Syrie," which were alternately played; and cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" and "Vive les Anglais!" were heard. The Emperor and the Duke of Cambridge rode in front of the line, the former occasionally conversing with him, and the attention of the foreign officers was engaged in

examining, not perhaps, without admiration, the gallant appearance of the troops so long the rivals of the English, now, and let us hope for a long time to come, their firm and faithful allies. When the cortege had completed the survey of the whole, the five lines of infantry broke up and formed into columns of battalions, with their right on the Bridge of Jena. The line of cavalry, forming into squadrons, took position to the rear of the artillery, and the artillery broke up into half batteries. The Emperor and the Duke then took their stand in front of the pavilion, where the Empress, the ladies in attendance, and the officers of the household were seated, to witness the defiling of the troops. The infantry opened the march and the cavalry closed it. Nothing could be finer than the appearance of the Hussars, the Guides, the Cuiraissiers, and the Carabiniers as they swept in long order from the bridge to the Ecole Militaire, and as the different corps passed where the Imperial and princely commanders were stationed, each chief made his signal of courtesy. The defiling lasted more than an hour and a half. When it was over, the troops resumed the positions they first occupied on the ground, and when the Emperor passed on his return to the Tuilleries, the infantry on the right and the cavalry on the left presented arms to his Majesty. At about a quarter to four the whole were on their return to their respective quarters.

About half-past 11 o'clock rain began to fall, but soon cleared. It again fell at 12, and continued at intervals until half-past 2. It cleared up again, however, and continued fine, though with a cloudy sky, until all was over, and the troops had quitted the ground. Immense crowds filled the sloping embankments on both sides of the Champ de Mars, and in front of the Ecole Militaire. The quays on both sides of the river were also covered with spectators, and the carriages of every description on the ground were numerous. Tickets had previously been issued by the Grand Master of the Ceremonies for the stands, from which a magnificent coup d'œil might be obtained.

Prince Napoleon Bonaparte left Paris on Sunday morning, at half-past nine, by the Lyons Railroad, for Toulon. The Prince, who was in undress uniform, was accompanied by his aides-de-camp and orderly officers. Marshal Magnan, one or two of the Ministers, the Prefect of the Seine, and several other high functionaries escorted him to the railroad, and also remained till the train left. Among the Prince's private friends was remarked M. Emile Girardin, who seemed to regret his inability to accompany him to Constantinople. General Prim, in the full uniform of a Lieutenant-General of the Spanish army, accompanied by the officers who compose the commission of which he is the head, also left with the Prince, on his return to the Danube. The Turkish Ambassador, Vely Pasha, accompanies Prince Napoleon to Toulon, and left in the same carriage, accompanied by his private secretary, Faik Effendi, and one of the attachés of the Embassy, who proceeds to Turkey. The Turkish Ambassador will remain at Toulon till the embarkation of Prince Napoleon, when he returns to Paris.

Several French ships of war left Brest for the Baltic on Monday. Besides their ordinary crews, they carried with them 1000 men of the marine infantry.

A farewell dinner has been given at the Trois Frères Provençaux to Mr. Sanford, late Chargé d'Affaires and for several years Secretary of the Legation of the United States in Paris, by his countrymen, on the occasion of his return to the United States. More than 100 Americans from all parts of the Union took part in this festivity, which was presided over by Mr. McKee, the Consul of the United States, supported as Vice-Presidents by Messrs. Corbin, Munroe, Dorr, &c., and at which were present, as invited guests, the new American Minister, Mr. Mason, and other members of the diplomatic body.

The slow progress of all military enterprise doubtless is a severe trial to public patience; and when uncertainty and conflicting testimony as to what has really been done is added, the public mind either becomes indifferent or irritated. At this moment, although the passage of the Danube has been accomplished this three weeks, we are still without authentic details. Such as we have, however, do not show that the Turks have at least sustained any reverses. It is clear also that Omer Pacha was informed of the intended passage of the Danube, and that he issued orders accordingly to the commander in the Dobrukscha, Mustapha Pacha. That officer, accordingly, withdrew his troops in tolerable order, resisting, however, at some points, and inflicting great loss on the Russians. The Turks were concentrated at Karasu, one of the positions on the line of defences known as Trajan's Wall, at the latest dates. Preparations were being made on the Russian side for the siege of Silistria, for which the garrison was fully prepared.

Below Silistria, but towards Rassova, the Turks have thrown up several batteries, which for some days past have answered the Russian batteries opposite with a very hot fire. These guns must be silenced, before the Russians can set about effecting the passage. In Silistria the garrison is fully prepared for every event. Since the 28th ult. all the gates have been kept shut and barricaded, one gate alone excepted, through which in case of need the guns planted along the strand can be brought into the fortress.

At Kalarash, where the Russians are preparing to cross into Bulgaria, the Turks succeeded on the 1st inst. in totally destroying a bridge equipage, which the Russians had brought up to throw across the Danube. A letter from Bucharest, of the 4th, states that the contest which has been going on near Kalarash ever since the 28th, was not then decided. Omer Pacha had set out from Silistria to Rassova, whence he would go on to Trajan's Wall, in order to conduct the operations against the Russians in person. The Turks at the date named had still garrisons in the Dobrukscha, and were stationed at Kustendjee, Pollas, Kostelli, Karassu, and Boghaskoi.

By a letter which appears in the Vienna *Presse*, of the 8th, it appears that a serious conflict took place at Kalafat on the 30th. It is probable that the rally was made from Kalafat by the advice of Colonel Dieu; but, be this as it may, on the last-mentioned date 10,000 foot and 2000 horses

said 60 guns advanced against the Russians, who were posted in force at Skripetz. After a sanguinary engagement, which lasted four hours, the latter were routed and pursued to a considerable distance. The loss of the Turks is given at 200, and that of their adversaries at 600 men. Colonel Dims, it is said, was killed. From the 28th of March up to the 2nd of April, there were engagements of greater or less severity. At Simnitsa, where the Turks remained two days, the Russians are said to have lost 1000 men. The writers from the right bank of the Danube also speak of the evacuation of Giurgevo; but this is most improbable, as the Russians have been strengthening that position for the last eight months.

The *Cyclops* brings news that the Turks expressly left a free passage to Hirsova, and, having surrounded the Russians, after a hard fight, cut one-half of them to pieces, and the remainder took to flight, and retreated across the Danube.

The Wallachian correspondent of the *Medical Gazette* rarely finds an opportunity of writing, which is much to be lamented, as his letters invariably contain matter of interest. On the 29th of March he wrote as follows:—

"At last the passage of the Danube has been effected. 36,000 Russians are already on its right bank, and to-day reinforcements will be sent across both from Brailow and Galatz. The whole of Bessarabia is overfilled with troops, and few of them are not under marching orders."

"On the 21st the first Cossacks, with some riflemen, crossed over to the right bank of the river in tscheiks (a boat peculiar to the Danube is so called), and returned at night without having suffered any loss. On the 23rd pontoon-bridges, connected by a double row of chains, were in readiness at Galatz and Brailow, and in the course of the afternoon infantry, cavalry, and artillery corps—each 6000 strong—crossed the river. On the 24th the first wounded men were brought in. The wounds were caused by fire-arms (there was not one inflicted by sword or bayonet), so that it is to be concluded that the adversaries did not come to close quarters. There was hardly one cannoner among the wounded."

"According to a report just sent, many men were severely wounded in the affair at Dundermen, where there were entrenched works commanding the Danube. There our passage was a forced one. Of the six steamers which have just landed troops at Karaboni (the expedition from Odessa, of which mention was made in my telegraphic despatch of the 29th of March), two have passed through the St. George's Canal, and reached Reni, where, after disembarking ammunition, they will fetch the necessaries for the temporary hospitals from Brailow and Galatz. It is here considered certain that the Russians have taken Fort St. George, and the little but well-situated station of Bistricna has been fixed on as the sick station for Baba Dagh."

"During the last campaign (1829), Hirsova was one great camp hospital. All the preliminary arrangements are of vast importance, as no conveniences for the sick are to be found in the Dobrukscha, and the army must take even the utensils necessary for fetching water. There are also special reasons why provisions must be made for the sick and wounded in the Dobrukscha. Our hospitals here are always overfilled, and the recent attacks on our positions, by means of landings from the right bank, at Oltenitza, Tschokaniest, Wadi-Silistri, Kalaraschi, and Vladeni, have given us a great number of wounded men, particularly at Oltenitza, where the Turks again played the very devil, and were only repulsed after great exertions."

"I will only communicate a few of the least palpable false reports which circulate here:—'Our outposts already occupy the Wall of Trajan, from Kostendje to Cernaovoda.' (The wall in question is some eight or ten feet high, along almost the whole line from the Danube to Kostendje. On the northern side is a deep ditch. At the west end of the wall are lakes and the boggy valley of Kara-su. There is also a southern or inner wall.) This is hardly probable. 'Rassova and Kara-su are said to be taken.' Improbable. 'The passage from Kalaraschi to Silistria effected.' Had been begun, but was delayed by the new attack of the Turks on Oltenitza. 'Tulstcha taken by storm.' Improbable. 'Kalaraschi taken.' Not to be believed."

"You shall not be troubled with the other camp reports. Everything is very gloomy here. The tumult of war has put an end to trade and everything else. Reni has been turned into an enormous arsenal and depot. Galatz and Brailow are two great slaughter-houses and pickling and smoking establishments. The ovens are heated day and night. One sees nothing but uniforms, and baggage-waggons laden with the materials of war and necessaries for the camp. Enormous masses of pressed hay and other kinds of fodder have been and are being sent over to the right bank of the river, as also tobacco, raki (a kind of spirit), and ingredients for the unavoidable *borsch* (a kind of thick soup made of rice, vegetables, sausages, fat pork, &c.), in as great quantities as if we were going into a desert. Indeed, the provisions for the troops which are to act on the other bank of the river are this time first-rate both in quality and quantity. From the preparations which have been made during the last four months, it is evident we are on the point of a long as well as a great war. Reinforcements, with supplies, are announced for the Pruth which far surpass the present strength of the left wing, which is 84,000 men. The troops expected are all veterans, and, as such, particularly fitted for this important part of the line of operation."

With respect to the combined fleet, it was, at the date of the latest advices, at Kavarna. Admiral Dundas had given the signal "to take, burn, or destroy everything Russian."

The marines of the French and English fleet will be landed if necessary at any point to protect the Turks. The Turkish gunboat flotilla will enable the admirals to communicate with Kustendje. There are 7000 marines on board the British fleet."

Advices from Constantinople of the 31st ult. state that three English merchantmen have been fired upon by the Russians. The *Anna*, laden with corn, has been sunk, and the steamer *Crescent* very much damaged.

General Canrobert and 1100 French soldiers landed at Gallipoli on the 31st of March. The British forces were close behind him.

The Greeks had been ordered to quit Constantinople in fifteen days. The expulsion of the Greeks was determined on by the Porte, in opposition to the advice of the foreign Ministers.

Rumour asserts that the Russians have crossed the Danube into Servia, and that the Austrians have made a like movement.

The Greek insurrection is not flourishing. The insurgents are almost entirely Greek subjects. The whole of the insurrectionary force in Epirus, as well as Thessaly, does not amount to more than 7000 or 8000 men, of which about one-half is in each of these two provinces. Of these, about 1200 went from Athens, 1500 from the Peloponnesus, 1000 or 1500 from Missolonghi and its environs, 3000 from Salona, Lamia (Zeituni), Chalcis, Negroponte, and other Greek districts adjoining Thessaly. To these we must add, perhaps, 1000 Greeks from the Turkish territory under various petty chiefs."

While the Greeks of the continent are hurrying to the frontiers, and while they are dreaming of the conquest of Constantinople, the Greek islanders see ruin and famine in the blockade of their harbours. Deputations from Hydra and Spezia, the two chief maritime centres of the Archipelago, have gone to declare to King Otho, that if the ninety thousand Greek mariners are to be left without work and bread, robbery and piracy must necessarily ensue. Rather than be reduced to such a state of anarchy, the greater part of the isles, it is said, will hoist the French and English flag and place themselves under the protection of those two Governments. The bands who have invaded Epirus and Thessaly, from the fact of their not yet being regularly organised, are compelled to live by pillage. By acting, however, in this manner, they have frightened and discouraged the very people they have been pretending to deliver from the Turkish yoke."

An Austrian note has been forwarded to Athens with strong remonstrances upon the conduct of the Greek Government, which is held responsible for whatever evil consequences may ensue."

The *National Gazette* of Berlin gives the following as the text of the convention concluded between France, England, and Turkey:—

"Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and the Emperor of the French having been invited by the Sultan to repel the aggression which the Emperor of Russia has directed against the territory of the Ottoman Porte, an aggression which puts in peril the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and the independence of the throne of the Sultan, and their Majesties being firmly convinced that the existence of the Ottoman Empire in its present limits is essential to the balance of power in Europe, and having in consequence consented to give to the Sultan the assistance which he demanded for that object, their Majesties and the Sultan have thought proper to conclude a treaty in order to fix their views according to what is above stated, and to determine the mode and manner in which they shall furnish the Sultan with the assistance in question."

"For that purpose their Majesties have named their plenipotentiaries (the Ambassadors of France and England), and the Sultan his Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, after having communicated their respective powers, have agreed as follows:—

"Art. 1. Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and the Emperor of the French having given orders, at the desire of the Sultan, for strong divisions of their fleets to repair to Constantinople to secure to the territory and to the flag of the Sultan the protection which may be required by circumstances, their Majesties engage themselves by the present treaty to co-operate hereafter to a larger extent with his Majesty the Sultan for the protection of the Ottoman territory in Europe and Asia, against the aggression of Russia, by furnishing, for this object, to his Majesty the Sultan, a sufficient number of troops. The troops to be landed shall be sent by their Majesties to those points of the Ottoman territory that may be judged proper. The Sultan engages that the French and English troops that may be landed shall meet with the same reception, and be treated with the same respect, as the French and English naval forces which have already been for some time in the waters of Turkey."

"Art. 2. The contracting parties engage themselves reciprocally to communicate to each other, without loss of time, any proposition which either of them may receive, either directly or indirectly, for the cessation of hostilities, for an armistice, or for peace. His Majesty the Sultan moreover engages to conclude no armistice, entertain no negotiation for peace, and conclude no preliminaries for peace with Russia without the knowledge and consent of the high contracting parties."

"Art. 3. As soon as the object of the present treaty shall have been attained by the conclusion of a treaty of peace, their Majesties the Queen of England and the Emperor of the French will adopt immediate measures to withdraw their land and sea forces which have been employed to obtain the object of the present treaty, and all the fortresses and positions on the Ottoman territory which shall have been occupied temporarily by the forces of England and France shall be given up to the authorities of the Sublime Porte within the space of ——— days, calculated from the date of the exchange of the notifications of the treaty which shall have put an end to the war."

"Art. 4. The present treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged, as soon as possible within the space of ——— weeks, reckoning from the day of signature."

(Here follows the signatures.) The above treaty remains open for the signature of the other European Powers."

Russian information is scanty. The Finnish Guards are on their way to Poland—a new infraction of the famous oaths of the Emperor. 16,000 Russian grenadiers are marching to Finland. The 12,000 men which are usually garrisoned in Finland are now in Osterbotten, under the command of Lieutenant-General Ramsay, who has lately received two honours—the order of the white eagle, and an autograph complimentary letter from the Emperor. The

gunboats are advancing to completion; ten are being built in Helsingfors, and forty in other Finnish harbours."

The intelligence of the evacuation of Aland is confirmed. An Imperial ukase has been read in the churches, announcing that the military matériel and the whole garrison will be removed to other points, and that the defence of the islands will be entrusted to the inhabitants. We think that the latter will not display over much energy in this direction."

The Russian Ministers of Denmark have at length resigned. It is remarkable that Admiral Napier saw the Danish Minister of Marine on Thursday week, and the Danish King the next day, and that on Sunday the hated Oersted Cabinet fell."

The *Invalide Russes* of St. Petersburg, of the 2nd, gives an account of the passage of the Danube, which must be taken for what it is worth:—"The Emperor yesterday evening received from General Prince Gortschakoff an account of a new glory acquired by his Majesty's arms. On the 29th ult. our troops rendered themselves masters in a most brilliant manner of the right bank of the Danube. They effected the passage of the river on three points; from Galatz, under the command of General Liders, commanding the 5th corps of infantry; from Ibraila, under the command of Prince Gortschakoff in person; and from Cape Tehtela, under the command of Lieutenant-General Ouschakoff, chief of the 7th division of infantry. On the last-named point the combat was very obstinate; but, notwithstanding the desperate resistance of the enemy, our brave regiments carried several strong redoubts by assault, took nine pieces of artillery, and made 150 prisoners. On the other points, the Turks, astonished at our bold attempt, took to flight, and did not even dare to defend themselves at Toulstcha or at Matschin, places which, surrounded by strong fortifications, and containing garrisons of 15,000 men, might have cost us considerable sacrifices. These two fortresses were abandoned by the enemy, and taken possession of by our troops without firing a shot. General Prince Gortschakoff renders his testimony to the exemplary prudence of the measures and to the brilliant valour of Generals de Liders, de Schilder, de Kotzebue, and Ouschakoff, as well as to the bravery of General-Major Doubensky, who had been attached to General de Schilder, and of Colonel de Mirbach, aide-de-camp of the Emperor, who accompanied the troops of the advanced guards. Prince Gortschakoff concludes his report to the Emperor in the following terms:—"The troops of your Imperial Majesty, from the general down to the private, are worthy of the highest praise. They burn with ardour, and are ready to die for your glory."

A letter from Riga, of the 6th, states that the weather during the last week has been mild, but the ice still remained solid. It had begun to break up at Windau, and it was expected that in a few weeks it would begin to do so at Riga."

St. Petersburg has been illuminated in celebration of the passage of the Danube. A *Te Deum* has also been sung in the church of the Winter Palace in the presence of the Czar, the imperial family, and all the civil and military functionaries."

Crosses and orders have just been distributed to a large number of Prussian military officers."

Advices from St. Petersburg, of the 6th instant, state that a ukase declares that, as danger threatens the empire, it is ordered that the four reserve battalions become effective, and that two new ones be organised for each corps."

The Papal Government has just given a fresh proof of its weakness, not to say of its subjection to the Austrian authority. Last year Signor Aurelio Saffi travelled through Tuscany and the Romagna without the police being able to discover any trace of his presence. On returning to England, Saffi published a letter of thanks for the hospitality he had received, and for the secrecy observed with regard to his movements. Several persons were, of course, arrested on the strength of this publication, and brought to trial before an Austrian court-martial. Twenty of these persons have recently been condemned to death. A lady, the relative of one of them, went to Rome to implore the Pope to spare the lives of these unfortunate men. His Holiness promised that he would do his utmost to save their lives, and that he would, as he eventually did, write to Marshal Radetzky upon this subject. The Pope, therefore, is not at liberty to grant a favour to his own subjects, without the previous sanction of an Austrian marshal."

It will be remembered that about two years ago, during a visit of the Emperor Francis Joseph to Lombardy, none of the Milanese nobility appeared at Court to assume their duties as chamberlain. A commission was instituted at Vienna to investigate the conduct of the gentlemen in question, and, after a lengthy trial, the commission resolved that they should be divested of the honours appertaining to their charge; but the sentence has been modified by the Emperor into temporary suspension. Some attempts have been also recently made to obtain the service of a lady-in-waiting for the future Empress, but no Lombard or Venetian lady could be discovered who would accept the proffered honour."

Austria seems to be renewing her old malignant attacks on Piedmont. Two articles which have just been published, one in the official *Gazette* of Milan, the other in that of Venice, are causing, it is said, great indignation in Italy, inasmuch as they necessarily proceed directly from the Austrian Government. The article in the *Gazette* of Venice attacks Piedmont with singular violence. It declares, first of all, that "Austria will not, at the present conjuncture, unhesitate its sword, save with the views of re-establishing order wheresoever it may be violated. Austria knows that she has in Italy a turbulent neighbour, a Government that exists under the tyranny of the emigrants; but the disorders of the press, the culpable follies of the official powers will not change her own calm dignity. She is aware of everything, observes everything, but she can wait." Three times in the course of this article it is repeated that Austria will be a neutral spectator, but a vigilant one; and that she will preserve an armed neutrality. She will not throw off her neutrality, unless disorders should spring up in Italy, and if, adds the official *Gazette*, "by an hypothesis excusable in the illusions of the emigrants, France and England should come to help the aggressive movements of the Piedmontese

emigrants, then, in that case, she would no longer be irremediable, she would forestall the attack of the hostile league. The subalpine plains are very convenient and somewhat celebrated." A march on Alessandria appears to be threatened in this last sentence. Letters from Piedmont state that the Piedmontese minister persists in refusing the ex-quo-quo to the Austrian consul appointed for Genoa, as he is the person who provoked the Costa affair at Smyrna. The minister thought, that with a man so ardent as this consul, and in a city like Genoa, troubles would not fail to ensue, and he wishes, at all hazards, to avoid any act appearing likely to give umbrage to an excitable population.

A singular incident has occurred at Menton. It is narrated in a letter dated the 6th:—

"At six o'clock this morning, the Duke of Valentinois, the Hereditary Prince, and son of Florestan I., Prince of Monaco, attired in a grand uniform, accompanied by his physician and an aide-de-camp, unexpectedly arrived here in a post-chaise and six. In consequence probably of an understanding with the former functionaries, the partisans of the Prince, to the number of about twenty, immediately assembled, and hoisted the flag of the house of Grimaldi. They unyoked the horses of the carriage, and drew it through the street of St. Michael, crying, 'Long live the Prince!' 'Long live Grimaldi!' The population were then working in the fields, and the wealthy inhabitants were still asleep. The moment, however, the arrival of the Prince became known, the people assembled in the streets, and the National Guard took arms. The Prince having alighted from his carriage, the sergeant of the Royal Carabiniers placed himself by his side to protect him, the entire population crying, 'Down with the Prince! Long live the King of Sardinia!' The Prince sought refuge in the barracks of the Carabiniers. Several of the rioters were arrested. The small garrison, drawn up in the street of St. Michael, was not called upon to act."

The trial of the assassins of Count Pellegrino Rossi was terminated. Four were condemned to death. Among them is Colonel Grandoni. The penalty, it was believed, would be commuted.

The duchess regent of Parma has issued a decree, dated the 3rd, restoring to the civil hospitals of Parma, and to the patrimony of the state, the property which had been taken from them by a decree of 1853, and annexed to the domains of the royal household. Any indemnity that may be due to the original proprietors, either for insufficiency of produce or waste, is to be paid after due inquiry.

The *Official Verona Gazette* contains an order forbidding the exportation of arms and ammunition for the Turkish provinces. The Tuscan Government informs its subjects that arms will be treated as contraband by the Turkish authorities in the coast district of Albania and Thessaly, but does not say a word to discourage those who are inclined to speculate at their own risk.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 8th instant announces the passage of Baron Brenner through Turin, on his way from Naples to Paris.

The Correspondent of the *Daily News* at Naples writes thus, on April 4th:—"Again the authorities at the prison of Montefusco have imposed fresh cruelties on Poerio and his companions. A soldier pretends to have overheard the prisoners speaking disrespectfully of the Neapolitan Government. Orders were issued to have all the prisoners again chained to the wall. Poerio, however, for the moment has escaped, as the medical man of the prison declared he was not in a state to bear so severe punishment. How much more humane if the King had ordered the execution of these unhappy men, when his judges condemned them to death. The protracted torture to which they are exposed is worthy of the worst tyrants of Rome. France, England, and other Christian countries, accredited representatives to the court of Naples—surely their united efforts might be used to prevent such outrages on the civilisation of the age. At all events, let us hope that something will be done for Italy while we have a land and sea force which might give considerable weight to suggestions from England and France."

On the 5th Mr. Soule, the American Minister at Madrid, received despatches with instructions to require instant redress for the outrage on the *Black Warrior*, at Cuba. The next day the affair was settled; a promptitude most unusual in Spain. We are told that M. Pezuela, the Captain-General of Cuba, was found to be in the wrong, and that the Spanish Government at once admitted this, made the needful amends, and granted a pecuniary indemnity. This, however, does not settle the other point mooted in the President's message—namely, that power should be given to the Spanish authorities at Cuba to settle disputes arising there. This will be more difficult to arrange, the Spanish home Government being traditionally jealous of its colonial delegates, and unwilling to increase their powers.

In Spain the "authorities" do boldly and on a grand scale what at Preston is transacted in a meager fashion. Barcelona has had its "strike," or "serious disturbances." They commenced by a turn-out of the workmen of a large manufactory called La Espana Industrial, situated at Sanz, two miles from Barcelona. The workmen at other manufactories in the neighbourhood soon joined in the turn-out, and refused to return to work, and acts of intimidation were practised by them against those men who were willing to work. The authorities had some of the parties taken up, and in consequence of this there was a general turn-out of the workmen at Barcelona and the neighbourhood on the 31st.

"Barcelona, April 1.

"At four P.M. yesterday, an imposing mass, formed entirely of operatives of all the arts and manufactories of this city, occupied the long and spacious Calle de Fernando and the Rambla of the centre of the Liceum, waiting in a peaceful attitude the result of the sitting which was holding in the Town-hall. 15,000 men composed this mass. The aspect of Barcelona at this moment was sad and afflicting. Finally, the discontented, represented by twenty athletic youths, exposed their pretensions to the municipality, which were—1. The immediate setting at liberty of the persons

taken up. 2. An increase of wages. 3. A reduction in the price of articles of food. After these propositions had been fully discussed, the municipal body which presided over the sitting offered to interpose all its influence with the military authorities, not doubting that they (i.e., the demands of the workmen) would be attended to as far as they were just. The chapter, for its part, urged the absolute necessity of re-establishing order in the capital, and restoring tranquillity, which would be attained by the operatives returning to their work. The assurance of the corporation, dictated by the greatest good faith and sincerity, satisfied the commission of the people, who withdrew with confidence to inform their companions that their wishes were about to be realised. Two hours afterwards all was still and quiet. At half-past five a large meeting was held at the Palace of the Captain-General, where were convoked the most notable persons of the city for their position, knowledge, and wealth. All who attended agreed with his Excellency in the necessity of putting an early end to the painful conflicts through which the capital was passing. The conduct observed by the military authorities in such difficult circumstances was unanimously applauded. The most complete tranquillity reigned during the night. The gates of the city remained closed for a long time yesterday, as on the previous day." The next day they met unarmed and encountered the troops with passive resistance only. Of course they were dispersed; some accounts say one or more persons were killed; but a letter from the city in the Madrid correspondence of the *Morning Chronicle* says that no personal disaster occurred. There were, however, 1200 persons arrested. On Sunday all was quiet. On Monday the men were going peaceably to work; there had been meetings of all the trades on the previous day, each meeting presided over by a town councillor, and it was owing mainly to the recommendations of these meetings, and a strong and at the same time conciliatory address from the corporation, in which it is promised that justice shall be done to the complaints of the workmen, that the latter have returned to their various employments. A private letter of the 3rd, in which an account is given of these meetings, represents the origin of the Barcelona strike as being of the same nature as such strikes in general, and not partaking of a political character. The workmen complain of the conduct of the authorities, as having invariably refused to attend to their complaints against their employers, and subjected them frequently to long periods of imprisonment in cases of disputes, without doing anything to their masters in any instance; and they accuse the latter of increasing their hours of work and diminishing their wages, not out of any necessity to enable them to make head against foreign competition, but in order to realise magnificent fortunes in a few years, living in the enjoyment of every luxury.

WAR ARMAMENTS.

The fleet in the Baltic has begun to move, it is hoped, on active service. Although experience does not warrant us in believing that the ice has broken up in the Gulf of Finland as far as Cronstadt, yet it may have broken up sufficiently to permit some offensive operations. Admiral Plumridge was first detached with a steam squadron, and, if reports may be relied on, he found the enemy. On Tuesday the *Dauntless* returned from a cruise up the Gulf of Finland. She saw eighteen Russian ships of the line in Sveaborg Harbour; and the *Impregnable* chased a Russian corvette back to Sveaborg.

On Wednesday the English fleet weighed anchor, and sailed from Kioge Bay, news having arrived that the Russian ports are open. Only a few ships remained in the roadstead. Another report states that the fleet sailed for Gothland.

A young officer on board the *Vulture*, writing home to his friends at Plymouth, under date of Copenhagen, April 5, says:—"We expect to be ordered over to Revel. Three ships were sent there a day or two ago to capture three American ships, which are supposed to be there waiting for the ice to break up, in order to discharge their cargo of powder, shot, &c., for the Russians. So our ships are gone down to 'noble' them, as just and lawful prizes, and I hope that this affair will turn up a little prize money. The *Conflict* has just arrived from the fleet. The weather up here is very fine. It blows like fun—and is as cold as blazes!" The young gentleman appears to enjoy it.

Lord Raglan and the Duke of Cambridge left London on Monday night by the half-past eight mail train for Dover en route for the East. Although the exact time of their departure had not been made public, upwards of 300 persons, including many ladies, had assembled to see them off. The royal carriage had been prepared for their reception, and as the train moved away from the platform they were loudly cheered. Lord Raglan was accompanied to the station by the members of his family, who there took an affectionate farewell.

Active preparations are being made for the departure of the cavalry; and of several additional regiments of infantry. It is stated that the arrangement for sending all the cavalry regiments through France has undergone some modification, and that the 8th Hussars and 17th Lancers are to take the long sea voyage from Plymouth and Portsmouth. The 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards and 11th Hussars will, it is said, go from Ireland to Dover, and thence to the continent, while the 1st and 6th Dragoons and the 13th Light Dragoons will cross the Channel from Folkestone to Calais.

The Ordnance officers in the Tower have been

most actively engaged in delivering ordnance and commissariat stores for transmission to Malta and Gallipoli; they consist of Minié rifles, pistols, cavalry sabres, cutlasses (naval), round and square tents and appurtenances, besides a vast quantity of necessaries for the commissariat department; the greater portion has been shipped on board the *Venerable* and the *Emmu*, contract vessels, for conveyance to Portsmouth, and the remainder sent *via* the South-Western Railway to the same place, from whence they will be forwarded in transports.

From Malta we learn that nearly the whole force there had been embarked for Gallipoli; and that French troops were constantly passing to the same rendezvous.

NOVA SCOTIAN LOYALTY.

THE people of Nova Scotia have long been distinguished for their loyalty and attachment to old England. This feeling recently found utterance on an appropriate occasion. The House of Assembly, on the 29th March, unanimously adopted this address to the Queen, on the motion of Mr. Howe, seconded by the leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Howe spoke as follows:—

"Mr. Speaker, the province of Nova Scotia has, for the last hundred years, been a firmly attached and loyal portion of the British Empire. She has steadfastly maintained her allegiance through all the vicissitudes of peace and war. Loyalty is here an enduring sentiment, and wherever there is menace or danger from abroad our Sovereign is not left to doubt of the strength of our feelings, or of our readiness to sustain, to the utmost of our power, the honour of the British flag and the authority of the Crown. When these are in peril, the voice of faction is hushed—party feelings subside—party distinctions are obliterated, and a united Legislature prepared to defend our common country, or to send to the foot of the Throne the expression of sentiments which are shared alike by all ranks and classes of our people. Sir, I look back with pride to a period in our history, within the recollection of many around me—when with singular unanimity and enthusiasm the whole resources, physical and pecuniary, of Nova Scotia, were placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor, when the frontier was endangered, amidst the acclamations of the people and of their representatives. At that time I led the Opposition in this house, but I at once tendered support to the Government of the day, as I am happy to know that the leader of the Opposition will now second the motion which I am about to make. Then, as now, our flag was about to be insulted—our country embroiled with a foreign power. We are not now threatened with any immediate danger. There is peace in this continent, and I trust it may be preserved. But our brethren at home are about to enter upon a struggle, the end of which cannot be foretold. The fleets and armaments on their way to the Baltic and the Black Sea instruct us that they are in earnest. It is but right that the outlying portions of the empire should comprehend and should discharge the obligations which in such a crisis rest upon them. A common sentiment should thrill throughout the empire. The Sovereign should feel that her subjects, wherever situated, are united as one man. It is our duty to take the earliest opportunity of declaring to our Sovereign the feelings of our people. Let there be no doubt in her mind—let it be felt and known that whatever may be our party struggles or differences of opinion, there is but one feeling in Nova Scotia when the flag of England is unfurled. The latter clause of this address, I trust, will not be disapproved. Whatever might be our regret at the withdrawal of her Majesty's troops, I believe that I am not mistaken when I assume that the militia of Nova Scotia, about to be enrolled and embodied, would be able to defend their own soil and protect her Majesty's forts and arsenals, should our gallant soldiers be required elsewhere. If they can, they ought, and we should not detain a single regiment here that may be wanted in the Mediterranean. Entertaining those sentiments, Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move the following address:—

"May it please your Majesty,—We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Nova Scotia, have learned with extreme regret that your Majesty's Government has been compelled to fit out armaments, and prepare for active hostilities, in order to maintain the faith of treaties, and guard the interests of the empire from the aggressive spirit manifested by the Emperor of Russia. Though far removed from what may be the theatre of war, your Majesty's loyal subjects in Nova Scotia will regard with grave solicitude the operations of your Majesty's forces by sea and land, and your Majesty may be assured that wherever the national flag is borne, their sympathies will follow it, and that, in triumph and disaster, the efforts of its gallant defenders will ever be marked with deep interest in this portion of the empire. Should the land forces now in this province be required elsewhere, your Majesty may rely upon the loyalty and devotion of the militia of Nova Scotia who until the return of peace in Europe, will defend their own country, and protect your Majesty's forts and arsenals from foreign aggression."

INDIA AND CHINA.

THE Indian mail brings some intelligence of interest. According to the *Deli Gazette*, Dost Mahomed, the ruler of the Affghans, has sent an envoy to Major Edwards, Commissioner of Peshawur, "to beg that bygones be bygones, that the past should be forgiven; and to declare his readiness to join the British against the Russians, Persians, or any others." Although not improbable, this report certainly "requires confirmation."

In Burmah there has been rather more than the usual amount of disturbance. Major Fytche, the energetic

Commissioner of Bassein, has had his hands full, but he is quite equal to such an emergency. It appears that the Burmese broke into the northern extremity of the district of Bassein, and that Fytche, collecting what soldiers he could, dashed at once against the rebels. Coming up with them, he fought them, killed one of the chiefs in a hot hand to hand fight, and routed the band. But while he was away on this service the capital was menaced, and Major Fytche returned just in time to scatter another horde of "patriots." There have also been fights, ambushes, pursuits in other parts of the annexed territory, which is far from settled. The British force there is kept on a war footing.

Fighting at Abbas Bunder, on the Persian Gulf, is reported. The Abbas people refuse tribute to the Persians, and the Muscat authorities assist Abbas. Dr. O'Shaughnessy was rapidly progressing with his electric telegraph, having carried it nearly from Calcutta to Loodianah.

Chinese news is without interest. The Russian steamer *Vostok*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 11th of February, reported that the Emperor of Japan had agreed, on the request of the Russian Admiral, to open up the trade of Japan to all the world, but asked for time to prepare. Commodore Perry had started for Japan with his squadron to obtain an answer to the letter of General Pierce.

The British war vessels on the Chinese station were eleven; the French two.

THE "REAL RAILWAY KING."

CERTAINLY the founder of the railway dynasty or rather oligarchy was George Stephenson; and therefore his statue has been most appropriately set up in the great hall of the Euston-square terminus. The uncovering of the statue was performed, on Monday, in the presence of a few gentlemen. When the statue was unveiled, Mr. Geach explained that upon the death of George Stephenson, in 1843, it occurred to the Society of Civil Engineers, which he himself had founded, that it would be a proper and becoming memorial to the departed to erect a monument on a suitable site, and that no site could be considered more suitable than the magnificent hall at Euston-square. The subscription was only once advertised—the appeal being made to his personal friends and to the workmen who had laboured under him, and who adored him. The amount realised was 2,803*l.*, of which the average amount subscribed by 178 friends was 14*l.*; the average amount contributed by 3,150 workmen was 2*s.* The memorial—a marble statue, about eight feet high—was fittingly intrusted to Mr. Baily, who has produced as noble a work as ever we have seen of the kind. The artist and the engineer had personally known, admired, and esteemed each other, and the statue—executed partly by the help of Mr. Lucas's portrait, but more by the recollections of the friend—represents not only his characteristic attitude and his burly figure, but his features at once manly and highly intellectual, with, as was admitted by all around, the perfect expression of the countenance of the original.

Mr. Scott Russell, in a short but appropriate speech, proposed that the grateful thanks of the committee should be given to Mr. Baily for the execution of the very beautiful and characteristic work before them. Doubtless Mr. Baily had received assistance from one or two extraneous sources, but nothing would have enabled him to portray the expression of his friend, but that instinctive feeling of sympathy which knits one man of genius to another. Mr. Baily returned thanks in a few graceful words, and the committee broke up.

"George Stephenson," says a writer in the *Morning Chronicle*, "may justly be termed the railway wonder of the nineteenth century. As a boy, a collier, he served his apprenticeship in the Beddington Colliery, on the Tyne; and while there, his mechanical genius began first to develop itself in mending his fellow pitmen's watches. For a brief space he was a driver upon the two-and-a-half mile per hour locomotive which then crawled along the wooden tramways by which the coals were conveyed from the pit heaps to the staiths, and while there invented what has been the life and soul of the railway system, the mechanism of the blast, the principle of which is to make the evaporation operate upon the speed, and the speed upon the evaporation. Upon this theory he constructed a locomotive engine at Beddington Colliery, which, with many improvements, almost all by him, is the locomotive in use at the present day. This engine we ourselves saw at Beddington, while conducting, with many colleagues, the inquiry instituted by this journal into all the industrial populations of the country. It was then in full work, and though it looked a strange, high piled machine, was, three years ago, and probably still is, efficient. The discovery of the blast was the first step to George Stephenson's fortune. He substituted iron rails for wooden tramways, and was appointed engineer to the first railway—the Manchester and Liverpool—constructed in England, on which he achieved what had ever been considered an impossibility, the bridging over Chat Moss, allowed to be the *chef d'œuvre* of railway engineering. The next railway undertaken by this great man was the London and Birmingham line, which cost about 50,000*l.* a mile; and while he was superintending it he constructed every minute of railway management—in fact, he was the founder and the builder of the railway system. He has usefully spent more money than, perhaps, it would be safe exactly to estimate; but cer-

tainly very many millions; while it is as certain that he has constructed by far more miles of railway than any engineer in England. You may travel from London to Edinburgh on one uninterrupted line of railroad, all the work of the greatest of engineers, George Stephenson."

The *Times* makes some equally appropriate remarks:—

"In early life a collier, working for his daily bread in the bowels of the earth, he mended watches in his leisure hours that his son might have the blessings of education. While his fame as a mechanical and civil engineer was still in its infancy he elaborated experimentally the same results as to the safety lamp which Sir Humphrey Davy reached by the process of philosophic induction. The tramways of the coal mines and the rude forms of the first locomotive engines grew under the strokes of his vigorous intellect into a mighty system, which has already exercised an incalculable influence upon industry and civilisation. That one who when a boy was a 'hurrier' in a coalpit should, by the force of native genius, rise to a position such as that which the statue in the hall of Euston-station commemorates, may well be regarded as a proof that the days of romance are not yet over, nor the giants of an elder world without their types in modern times. Perhaps it is also to be viewed as a characteristic of the age that the fame of such a man is so quietly left to the good keeping of the works which he has achieved. The traveller hastening on his way should pause in Euston-station to contemplate the masculine form and massive, energetic features of him who, by combining the blast-pipe with the tubular boiler, first endowed the locomotive with its tremendous speed—who during his busy manhood superintended the construction of more than 2500 miles of railway—who thought out everything connected with our first iron highways—and who engineered lines extending in unbroken series from London to Edinburgh."

THE SEIZED WAR STEAMERS.

THE history of the seizures of the screw-steamers may be thus stated:—From information received at the Customs in December last, that some ships were being built for a foreign Power (not Russia) at war with a State in amity with this country, the attention of Mr. Scanlan (the officer who appears to have been charged with the management of these matters from the commencement) was directed to the necessary inquiries. In the course of his examination he found that two war-frigates were being built at Northfleet, by Mr. Pitcher, and as he had reason strongly to suspect for the Russian Government. This impression of the officer became soon confirmed, by a formal communication from the Home Department early in January last, informing the Customs of the fact, and directing the necessary inquiries. The Customs having given directions accordingly, Mr. Scanlan did prosecute his inquiries, although unknown to Mr. Pitcher, and ascertained the character and forwardness of the vessels. It will be enough to state that they were screw-steamers of large tonnage, and constructed for the purposes of war, of the best materials, and at an apparently immense expense. At this stage matters had not reached the point which justified a seizure, and the officer continued to keep the vessels under strict surveillance. About the end of January one of the vessels was ready to be launched; the other was not in the same state of forwardness, but the work progressed with great activity. The officer continued his observations, and about the middle of March, finding that a considerably increased number of hands were at work on the incomplete vessel, and hearing that a report had been circulated among the men that the vessels were purchased by the British Government for the purposes of war, and that they were to be got ready for sea with the least possible delay, reported the fact, and suggested the expediency of ascertaining from the proper authorities whether the report in question was correct. The result was a communication from the Home-office and the Admiralty, denying the truth of the report. Matters continued in this state until the circumstances of the case appeared sufficient to warrant a seizure, and on the 4th of April, in pursuance of the orders of the Treasury, the vessels were seized as "the property of an enemy." The vessels are at this moment under detention as forfeited to the Crown, and nothing was heard of a proposal to transfer them by voluntary sale to her Majesty's Government until after the seizure had been made by which they were alienated from the former owners.—*Times*.

THE DARIEN EXPEDITION.

GREAT anxiety is felt in the United States with regard to the safety of Lieutenant Strain and his party. A volunteer in the expedition, who has arrived at New York, gives the following account:—

"We arrived in Caledonia Bay on the 17th of January, in the *Cyane*. The Indians from the neighbouring villages came on board and requested that no one should land until the chiefs had been consulted. Several of them speak imperfect English, picked up among the coast traders. Next day a grand council was held on board the *Cyane*; the principal men of the country, for 30 miles up and down, assisted. They showed, as we had expected, great jealousy of any attempt to enter their terri-

tory. They represented the hills and forests as barriers placed by the Almighty against any canal. They spoke of the dangers from wild beasts, from swamps, from forests. At last full permission was given to traverse peacefully the country, and this was confirmed some days afterwards by an envoy from the head of the nation at Mandingo Bay. These Indians are a diminutive but active race, skilled in the use of firearms and the bow and arrow. They cultivate the cocoa to a considerable extent, the product of this coast being much esteemed. Captain Hollins took all possible precautions against hostility on the part of the Indians, and there has never been reason to suspect them of treachery. At this time we were not informed of the murder of Captain Prevost's men; afterwards, when the natives were charged with it, they said that the people of the interior, seeing these intruders, treated them as enemies, as they had entered the country without permission. I merely mention this to show that they pretended, at least, to consider their permission as a guarantee against attack. We started a party of 27. Our course lay along the Caledonia River, sometimes wading in its bed, sometimes cutting in the thick jungle on its banks. Every man carried his own provisions for ten days, blanket, arms, ammunition, &c. The object was to make a run across the country, determine its general character, and return for the regular survey."

"In following up the west branch of the Caledonia, on the third day, and having already attained an elevation of about 200 feet, we came to a gorge in the mountain where the porphyritic rocks, precipitous on each side, formed a pool in the stream too deep to pass without wetting everything. The order was given by Lieutenant Strain to pass over the slope above this gorge and rejoin the river beyond. We clambered up, and in about twenty minutes five of the party found their way separately into the bed of the stream above. It was a bad bit of hill, covered with a tangled tropical forest growth. After waiting a sufficient time, it was supposed that the remainder of the party had, in pursuance of the order, reached the stream higher up, and we proceeded slowly along, firing shots, as concerted; we heard shots in answer, apparently above, and, confirmed in our previous belief, continued on, leaving notes of progress. We encamped that night on a few square feet of rock, having reached an elevation of about 700 feet in the midst of impracticable mountains, the stream a mere torrent falling in successive cascades. The next morning we cut to the top of a hill 800 or 1000 feet above us (1500 above the sea); nothing was to be seen except an unbroken mass of densely wooded mountains. As we had no compass, progress was impossible in the woods; we returned, and, finding no traces of the party, made our way to the ship for a new attempt. We were still on the Atlantic side of the Cordillera."

"During our absence the British brig *Espegle*, schooner *Scorpion*, and the French steamer *Chimère*, had arrived, and landed a joint party of sixty, under guidance of Mr. Gisborne. I anticipate to say that they returned after a fortnight entirely baffled; they had found the same range of lofty mountains everywhere. Mr. Gisborne said that he had been entirely mistaken. Dr. Cullen was of the same party. There was but one opinion with regard to these persons. Two parties were now despatched from the *Cyane*—one to examine still further the mountain to the eastward; the other, consisting of those separated from Mr. Strain, with a reinforcement, was to join him if possible; if not, to continue the exploration of the interior. The first party returned after a few days, having reached the summits of the chain in their direction, and found the mountains equally impracticable. Little anxiety was felt for Mr. Strain; it was not supposed that he would cut off his communications. We were by this time provided with compass and cutting tools, and by their aid, on reaching our point of separation, were able to find traces of our party. As they were proceeding dispersedly over the mountain, they had fallen in with a faint Indian trail leading westerly, and without sufficient consideration of the fact that some of the party would, in pursuance of orders, proceed along the stream, they had hastily followed this trail, leaving scanty marks of their way. On arriving at their first station we found a note from Lieutenant Strain, specifying the missing, and recommending that if any should reach this point, after a certain period, they should return to the ship, as he would be too far in advance. Before reaching this station we had crossed several ridges, the highest near 1500 feet. From this place Lieut. Strain had followed a small stream flowing north-westerly, under the impression, derived from Mr. Gisborne's account, that it must be a tributary of the Lavana, the river whose course the proposed canal was to follow. But this person, who had overlooked entirely the existence of the Cordillera, had also failed to discover that between the valley of the Lavana and the mountains is the valley of the main river of Darien, the Chuqueneque, which flows for a long distance nearly parallel to the coast, draining the greater part of the Pacific slope of the range."

He had mistaken the low hills to the westward of this river for the dividing ridge between the two oceans, and supposed that this was the same stream upon which, a few miles from the Atlantic, he had been turned back by the Indians.

"We proceeded on in a direct course by compass, hoping to intersect the route of our companions. On the third day we crossed a range of the Cordillera, more than 2500 feet high, and thence, by cutting away the trees, had a clear view of Caledonia Bay, distant from twelve to fourteen miles. The ships were just visible. Descending this range, we found a river flowing in a favourable direction, and followed it, constantly expecting to find traces of our party. We passed one Indian hut, recently left by its three inhabitants, and several stations for drying game; we also saw three light canoes. We kept on until only just enough provisions remained to enable us to reach the ship. The river had already diverged from the proper course, and we had determined it to be some tributary of the Chuquenaque. At our extreme point we ascended a hill 600 feet high, and had a view of hill ranges and forest country extending from twelve to fifteen miles westerly. We retraced our steps to the ship by the way we had carefully cut, eking out our provisions by some plantains found in the deserted hut. Our return journey was very exhausting. There was as yet little apprehension for the fate of Lieutenant Strain. It was supposed that he had crossed the country, and, if not finding it convenient to recross, would be returning *via* Panama. Meantime, Mr. Gisborne, disappointed in his original plans, had hired an influential Indian from the Rio Diablo, who knew the value of money, to accompany and procure him guides across the country for 500 dollars. Lieutenant St. John, of the English Engineer Corps, went with him. As time went on, the only hope for the safety of our party was through Panama, and the *Cyane* sailed for Aspinwall for intelligence. Nothing had been heard of our party at Panama, though communication was constant with the Gulf of St. Miguel, the Savanna and the Chuquenaque. On the 5th of March they had been absent forty-five days. It was next to impossible that they should have survived and not found their way to the coast in this time. At the moment of sailing in the *George Law*, I met Lieutenant St. John on his way back to England from San Miguel. In his journey across the isthmus he had found no traces of Strain's party, but the Indians reported that they had gone down the Chuquenaque, and were lost. I had no time to obtain from Mr. St. John a full account of his trip. They had been guided by the Indian through a devious path, ranging along the isthmus to the west, to the village of Lucubdi, on the river Lucubdi, a branch of the Chuquenaque; thence to Morti, similarly situated, and down the Morti, across the Chuquenaque to the path cut by Captain Prevost over the comparatively level country west of the Cordillera. While Mr. Gisborne and Lieutenant St. John were in the interior letters were received from them at Caledonia Bay stating that the Indians were assembled in force at the villages above-mentioned, and had taken a hostile attitude, owing to a rumour that three of their people had been carried off prisoners by the *Chimere* to Carthagena. They were with difficulty protected by their guide until these stories were proved incorrect. Lieutenant Strain depended upon the good faith of the Indians, and, should they have proved treacherous, our national experience of Indian warfare, particularly in the semi-tropical regions of Florida, shows how little chance a small body of men, even when on their guard, have against savages on their own ground. If the Indians, however, have attacked Mr. Strain's party, why did they not our own much smaller one? We have reason to suppose that every step of our progress was watched by them.

"Just before we left Caledonia Bay, the principal chief of the coast, in talk with the New Granadian commander, repeated the old assertion that God never intended a canal there, and added, 'God will take care that no one who goes to seek a passage shall escape.' The Indians may consider themselves as the agents of Providence in carrying out His will. Lieutenant Strain's ammunition was entirely in cartridges; our experience proved that these would soon be unserviceable from the constant showers and dampness of the interior. As merely a volunteer to the expedition, I offer no opinion as to its outfit or management. Lieutenant Strain had no personal knowledge of the isthmus, and, trusting to the reports and maps of Mr. Gisborne, anticipated little difficulty in his preliminary reconnaissance. He wished to get a general idea of the country, and afterwards to carry a line of levels across would have been merely a question of time and bluish-whacking. On review, the principal points determined, with regard to the proposed canal route, are these:—

"Parallel to the coast, and directly across the route, is the main dividing ridge of the isthmus—a massive, rugged range of porphyritic mountains, densely wooded, broken into gorges, wild, and impracticable. The summits of this range, concealed often by clouds and mist, rise in full sight from the bay, from 3000 to 4000 feet high. No passage was

found by any of our parties lower than 1200 feet to 1500 feet, and this not a single ridge, but after crossing the terraces of hills which are the *apex* of the chain on both sides. Crossing the Cordillera, you find streams flowing into the valley of the Chuquenaque, a large river draining the Pacific slope, and winding in a long circuit to the Gulf of San Miguel. Between this river and the Savannah is a low range of hills, mistaken by Mr. Gisborne for the Cordillera; except these, a level, marshy country extends to boat navigation on the Savannah. This plain was traversed by Captain Prevost, about twelve miles to the westward of Mr. Gisborne's proposed route. Entertaining a high personal respect for this gentleman and his officers, I look with interest for their authentic report. The Savannah, in its lower course, becomes a broad estuary. The former error in longitude being corrected by Captain Kellett's observations, the width of the isthmus, from ocean to ocean, becomes fifty-two or fifty-three miles. The whole country is densely wooded, and on the Pacific side, in the low ground, almost impassable.

"With regard to the missing party of twenty-two persons, there is no proof, though some grounds for suspicion, of treachery on the part of the Indians. If not, they have probably followed down the Chuquenaque, under the impression of arriving speedily at tide-water; deceived in this, they may have had no other resource but to push on, and the great length of their absence makes it almost conclusive that in this solitary region, their provisions exhausted, and unable to procure game or food, they have perished. There is a possibility, however, that some news may be had from the mouth of the river, and Captain Hollins will do everything in his power to succour the survivors."

THE LANCASHIRE LABOUR-BATTLE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Preston, Thursday.

THE resolution of the Stockport masters to take off the ten per cent. has undoubtedly caused a great uncertainty of feeling among the operatives, especially those on strike. Some (naturally enough) look upon it as the result of influence brought to bear upon the Stockport masters by the subscribers to the Defence Fund, who are said to be now heartily sick of their weekly contributions; others regard it as the unavoidable effect of bad trade. Deputations of the Stockport operatives have waited upon their employers during the week, and in some cases have pointed out that running short time would be wiser and juster than reducing wages. In making this proposition, their political economy seems to be sounder than that of the masters; but, in all cases, the operatives have been given to understand that the future conditions of labour at Stockport depend exclusively upon the fiat of the Associated Masters there. It was at first rumoured (and by some of the Preston Association, hoped) that the Stockport operatives would strike, sooner than submit to the reduction; but I do not think that any reduction elsewhere will force the Unionists to divert public assistance and public opinion from Preston. On Monday evening a deputation of operatives waited upon the Mayor of Stockport, and requested permission to hold a meeting in the market-place on Friday, for the purpose of considering the crisis; but his Worship gave it as his opinion, that "such a meeting on that day would be exceedingly improper," and declined to answer the request on the ground of "such meetings having been elsewhere prohibited." To-night a large meeting of the Stockport operatives will be held, when the course to be adopted will be finally resolved upon.

The immigration of operatives into Preston goes on very slowly; up to this morning, ninety immigrants have been brought into the town, of whom about seventy are fit for the mills. During the same time sixteen have been sent back again by rail.

Cases of great apparent hardship are constantly coming before the magistrates in connexion with this immigration scheme. On Tuesday last a young man, named John Valentine, stated that he had been brought to Preston from Manchester by a person named Crompton, who had promised him 15s. a week, and after giving him a dinner, sent him to Mr. Naylor's mill. On applying, however, to Mr. Naylor, that gentleman declined to find work for him; so that he was left utterly destitute. On the same day, three young girls from Manchester stated that they had left their work in Manchester on purpose to come to Preston; that Mr. Galloway had sent them, telling them that they should have 10s. a week standing wages, and their first week's lodging free; but that after working a week with Mr. Humber, they received 1s. 8d. each. One of them had a child, and, finding that they could not live upon these earnings, they went to the Immigrants' Home, and were sent to Messrs. Leigh's; but they stated that the work there was so bad that they could do nothing with it. "We have been to two masters," said they, "and neither of them will do for us, so we want to go home."

This morning an Irish girl applied to the magistrates under similar circumstances. She stated that she had been induced to leave Ireland, where she was making 8s. per week; but that on coming to Preston, she found that she could only make 6s.

The Mayor referred all these people to the relieving officer. So that the ratepayers of Preston are now expected to perform very various duties; they have to keep police and special constables to guard these paupers into the town, and they have to pay the expense of removing them when they are dissatisfied with the fulfilment of the promises which attracted them thither. The ratepayers will also have to bear the expense of the attempt to prosecute the delegates; and I am given to understand that the confidence felt on the part of the prosecution was such, that at the late assizes the briefs were delivered and counsels' fees actually paid!

During the past fortnight there has been a remarkable dearth of that species of literature which, during the progress of the struggle, has rivalled even the journals in the excitement of interest—I refer to the placards. One placard only has appeared, and that on the part of the operatives: it is headed "*Shall Labour be Prostrated?*" but is little better than a declamatory piece of rhodomontade. Such effusions conduce to no good end, and at the utmost can only excite the pity of the indifferent.

It is understood that some of the *ignoti* included in the committee of mediators have met, and intend to submit certain written propositions to the Masters' Association. This speaks well for their zeal, but little for their judgment. Those among the number who only would have any chance of being respectfully treated by the masters have not taken any part in their deliberations, and nothing can be expected from these proceedings but false impressions, if not a complication of the intricate dilemma in which both parties are placed. A somewhat humorous anecdote is told of the reception accorded to a similar deputation by a Bolton master. A rumour having got abroad that this gentleman had had a difference with his hands, he was waited upon by some respectable townspeople, who stated what they had heard, and said that, as it was very desirable to avoid a strike, they should be very glad to interfere. The manufacturer hereupon fixed his eye upon the spokesman of the deputation—a sturdy, well-to-do-looking grocer—and abruptly demanded if he had a maid servant. "Certainly, sir," was the reply.—"Then," said the mill-owner, "take my word for it, in six months' time that girl will have some words with your wife; she'll want more wages. Now, send for me and I'll settle it for you." Whereupon, the deputation having nothing further to remark, bowed itself away.

However disinclined the employers may be to admit of any interference from third parties, the operatives continue to profess their willingness to accept of mediation. In the balance-sheet published by the Amalgamated Committee for this week, it is stated:—"The operatives have throughout relied with the utmost confidence upon the justness of their demand, and, therefore, they have repeatedly offered to leave it for examination and decision by an independent third party; but the masters have scornfully rejected every proposal for mediation, and sent forth their ultimatum, requiring nothing less than the complete prostration of the people."

The arbitrary rule to which I referred in my last, restricting the employment of old hands in the mills of Associated Masters to the same establishments which employed them before the Lock-out, continues to be very oppressively enforced. A case came to my knowledge to-day of a woman who had been employed for years at one of the principal mills in the town; who was forced unwillingly from her work by the Lock-out; who has worked during the strike at a mill in the outlying districts; and who took the opportunity of the re-opening of the mills to return to Preston; when (indignant at the treatment she had experienced) she sought for and obtained work at the mill of another Associated Master: this week her former master heard of the occurrence, and, I understand, that this poor woman is actually deprived of the liberty of earning honest bread, at the request of one of the wealthiest men in Lancashire.

MADAME DENIS.

THE French journal, the *Droit*, throws some light on the dark calling and abominations of the Madame Denis of civilised life:—

"A Madame D— had at Paris, some years ago, some disagreeable relations with the judicial authorities, who accused her of having committed the offence which French law describes as exciting to the debauchery of girls under age. She accordingly deemed it right to cross the Channel, and to establish in England a house of ill-fame on an aristocratic footing. If amongst our neighbours the conduct of families is justly cited as a model, many persons make up for domestic constraint by eccentricities, almost unknown to our countrymen. For these gentlemen *blasés*, there are at the West-end harems, in which even the respect due to children is not observed. The supply of these abominable establishments is the object of numerous speculations. Every house of this kind has its correspondents, its agents, and its travellers abroad, who receive fixed salaries, and are allowed

commissions more or less large, according to the importance of their services. It is ordinarily by advertisements in the *Petites Affiches*, or the newspapers, that these persons commence their operations. They advertise for very young girls to travel with a lady, or to be sent abroad as *jeunes de chambre*, or as shop-girls, with good salaries. They offer to the parents or friends of the girls what appear the best guarantees; and they promise that their moral, as well as their material welfare, shall be strictly attended to. They even affect great piety, and require that proofs shall be given them that the girls have been virtuously brought up, far from all dangerous temptation. For all questions put to them they are prepared with an answer, and they freely make use of the most honourable names. When they have obtained the consent of the parents or guardians, they make them accept a sum of money, and retire with their prey. If by chance these means should not, however cleverly employed, succeed, recourse is had to abduction and violence. Owing to the talent with which she abducts her agents, and to the knowledge she had of Parisian manners and customs, Madame D— was able to satisfy all the fantasies of the gentry and nobility, and acquired in a short time a large fortune. One of her principal agents was a sort of Proteus who played all parts, and assumed all disguises; he even at times appeared as an old man. The London papers recently announced the arrest of this person, accused of having carried off from Belgium a girl of fourteen, of rare beauty, and belonging to a highly respectable family. Details were given of the manner in which she was given up to a licentious nobleman, and of the violence exercised on her. A great number of similar facts having occurred, the English tribunal, which was charged with the investigation of the case, had reason to think that he had exercised his infamous traffic in France. It accordingly begged of the Prefecture of Police to cause researches to be made on the subject. A commissary of police was entrusted with the task, and he ascertained that a considerable number of young girls, especially of the working class, had been victims of H— and his accomplices, and had been sent to the establishment of Madame D— at London. Several of these captives succeeded in escaping from their frightful prison, and came back to Paris; but a sentiment easy to understand prevented them from making any complaint, and they endeavoured to find in assiduous labour the forgetfulness of a fatal past. All these facts have been transmitted to London, and will be added to the documents in the case, which will expose one of the most melancholy features of our civilisation.

The Customs officers of Biberich, in the grand duchy of Nassau, on visiting a steamer which was descending the Rhine four days ago, were surprised to find not fewer than twenty-one young girls, aged from fourteen to seventeen, accompanied by three men. They gave information to the director of police, and he made inquiries, from which it appeared that the men were taking the girls out to New York to place them in houses of prostitution. The girls had been recruited in the rural districts near Wiesbaden, Kreisnach, Uringen, and Weilbourg, and some of them had left unknown to their parents. Orders were given to arrest the men, but only two of them could be taken, the other having run away. The girls were ordered to be sent back to their homes.

EXECUTION OF RIBANDMEN.

It is seldom so remarkable an incident in the history of capital punishments comes to light as that which took place at Monaghan last Monday. There were three men, Quin, Grant, and Coomey, condemned to die by hanging, for the murder of Mr. Bateson some years ago. There was not the least hope of a respite, and three priests were ordered to attend on them. These gentlemen appear to have been very successful in their task. Grant was reserved; Quin was reckless; Coomey was of a religious turn, erudite in the Scriptures. Their relations came to visit them, their wives and children came and went, but neither on the one side nor the other was the slightest grief displayed. Quin had a young wife; they parted cheerfully.

On the morning of their execution they were visited by a writer in the *Northern Whig*, to whose account we are indebted for these facts. He found them walking in one of the yards of the prison, after having eaten an excellent breakfast. Grant and Quin were smoking, and all were in the best spirits. The following narrative would be incredible, but for the authority of the Belfast journal:—

"I expressed, as did several of the party with me, my regret at seeing them in their unfortunate position, and Quin and Coomey both replied, in the strongest terms, that they were fully prepared for the fate that awaited them; that thanks to the attention which had been paid to them by their clergymen, they were ready to meet their God. In the course of the conversation which ensued, Coomey particularly entered into religious topics, remarking that he never, in the whole course of his life, felt so happy as he did at that moment, with the confidence before him of, in a brief time, meeting his Saviour. Quin said that, if a reprieve would come, he would not accept it, as he should never be better prepared to die than he was at that time. They both expressed their forgiveness of their prosecutors, and said they had no complaint to make as to the treatment they had received from the officers of the prison. Coomey said he had eat and drunk at the table of the best society, but, thank God, he never was in better health in his life than at that time. On its being remarked that we were from Belfast, Coomey said he had been there in his time too. Grant spoke little, nor did he seem to have a wish to

share in the conversation. On our leaving, the unfortunate men shook each of the party warmly by the hand, and expressed a hope that, when we were about to die, we would be as fully prepared for it as they then were. Throughout the entire conversation Grant and Coomey spoke with a spirit and freedom which was perfectly astonishing, looking at their approaching end as a merchant might be supposed to do on entering on a prosperous enterprise which would reap for him rich and glorious results. Mr. Swanzy, the sub-sheriff, called with them in the morning, and on going up to them said he was sorry to see three men in their position. 'Sorry!' said one of them, in a tone of surprise, 'why it is glad you should be, sir.' He then asked them if they had any statement to make to him in relation to the offence for which they were to die. 'No,' said Coomey, 'our Saviour said nothing when he was executed.'

Great numbers assembled to witness the execution. The last rite of the Roman Catholic Church was administered, and the criminals were led forth.

Quin said: 'Hell cannot now scare us.' When the hangman pinioned his arms, 'He's doing the best job ever was done for us.' To the rev. gentlemen, 'We return you many thanks, gentlemen. Will you not give us your blessing before you go?' Both reverend gentlemen then blessed them. Rev. Mr. Smith: 'Remember the penitent thief on the cross. In one moment you'll be in heaven. You have eternal happiness within your reach.' Quin: 'Mary, Mother of God! receive us. Prepare heaven for us!' Grant did not say anything audible, but appeared to be repeating prayers in an under tone.

Quin and Grant were hung amid the yells of the crowd. It was now Coomey's turn.

At one o'clock precisely Coomey was brought from the chapel. He carried in his hand a small crucifix, and passed to the press-room, and appeared to be devoutly engaged in prayer. He was heard to say audibly, 'I am quite content; I am going to my God.' Before he was pinioned, he twice fell on his knees, and received a blessing from each of the rev. gentlemen. The executioner having pinioned him, and some prayers having been repeated, and the rope placed round his neck, he said: 'May I now go, gentlemen?' A silence ensued, during which the executioner, amid loud cries from the crowd below, placed him on the drop. He then said, 'Lord Jesus, receive my soul!' the executioner drew the bolt, the drop fell, and the wretched culprit died without a struggle. The death of Coomey appeared to excite much greater sensation among the crowd than that of the others; there was considerable shouting or rather yelling, and one woman in the vicinity of the drop fainted the instant he fell.

PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIP-WRECK.

The annual general meeting of the subscribers and friends of the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck was held at their offices, John-street, Adelphi, Captain Shepherd, H.C.S., Deputy-master of the Trinity-house, in the chair.

The Chairman having dwelt at some length upon the importance of the institution, and expressed his satisfaction at the election as chairman of Mr. F. Baring, Mr. Lewis, the Secretary, read the annual report, which stated that lifeboats on Mr. Peake's design had been placed during the past year by the institution at Lyme Regis, Barmouth, Sennen Cove, Dungeness, Ardrossan, Dundrum Bay, and Skerries. Lifeboats, on the same plan, had also been built under the directions of the committee for the Prussian Government, and for the Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners, and several of them had already proved useful in saving the crews of wrecked vessels. Mr. A. E. Fuller, M.P., had liberally presented to the institution the Eastbourne lifeboat. The lifeboats of the society during the year had saved the crews and passengers of twelve ships. The destruction of human life from shipwrecks, on the coasts of the United Kingdom, had been very large in the past year, 800 shipwrecks, with the loss of 870 lives, having occurred in that period, which, however, was considerably less than those of 1852. In the awful gale of last January 257 wrecks occurred, accompanied by the sacrifice of 486 lives. In addition to one gold medal, 14 silver medals, and 10 other honorary rewards, nearly 2000 had been voted by the institution during the past year for saving 678 lives, and since the first establishment of the society nearly 9000 lives had been saved by the use of its lifeboats and other means; and for rescuing whom it had granted 79 gold medals and 539 silver medals, besides pecuniary rewards amounting to nearly 90000. The receipts of the year had been 18857, including a donation of 1000. from her Majesty the Queen, and 2100. from the corporation of London, whilst its expenditure on legitimate objects was 24822, besides liabilities for lifeboats amounting to 5700. The committee earnestly appealed to the public for additional support to enable them to carry on successfully the operations of the institution, and they trusted that their appeal to the British public would not be made in vain.

The report was adopted unanimously, and various resolutions pledging the meeting to support the institution having been also carried, a vote of thanks was passed to the committee of management and Captain Shepherd, after which the meeting separated.

OPENING OF JAPAN.

THE visit of Commodore Perry in July last has, no doubt, hastened the event, which his return would probably have accomplished; but the actual achievement is due to the Russians, not to the Americans. While Commodore Perry deemed it the wisest course, after delivering the letter of the President of the

United States in due form at Uraga, to allow six months to elapse before requiring an answer, Admiral Pontiatine, without dictating the place where he should hold intercourse with the Japanese authorities, went, as directed, to Nangasaki, and has succeeded in negotiating, apparently without any sacrifice of national dignity, and with the sort of success which the world was more prepared to expect from the practical Republic than from the Russian autocracy. According to the information we have received from an authentic source, some time after the Russian Admiral had intimated his presence and objects at Nangasaki, two high officers arrived, and, after entertaining him at a feast on shore, entered upon the objects of the visit in a friendly and even cordial manner. In substance they stated very candidly that the Japanese Government, seeing the earnest desire of foreign nations to hold intercourse with them, and their own people being anxious to trade, it had been resolved to open the commerce of Japan to all nations. In this spirit all the ports of Japan might at once be considered as open to foreign vessels requiring to refit or take in supplies of wood and water; but to avoid disturbances, the crews must not be allowed to land. This, however, is only confirming what foreigners have already enjoyed, without always fairly acknowledging. With regard to commercial intercourse, the Japanese officers stated that, after centuries of seclusion, some preparations were necessary, and a year must therefore elapse before any treaty or privileges to trade could come into operation. We have no doubt as to the accuracy of this information, and are further inclined to believe that a similar result might have been effected long ago by Great Britain, if she had ever been fortunate enough to intrust her interests in this part of the globe to any one who did not look steadily and exclusively to his own fortunes, and how to obtain honours without deserving them. Dr. Bowring may not be insensible to either, but he is less likely than any of his predecessors, or any admiral we have seen on the station, to overlook the opportunity of achieving a lasting reputation for himself.—*China Mail*.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Return.)

THE weekly return indicates an improvement in the public health. The deaths registered in the week that ended on Saturday declined to 1149. The weekly average in March had been 1305. The mean temperature, which in that month was one week with another 44.6 deg., in the first week of April rose to 49.9 deg. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1844-53 the average number of deaths was 1116, which, if corrected for increase of population, becomes 1228. The return of last week, therefore, gives a result less by 79 than the estimated amount.

Last week the births of 865 boys, and 877 girls, in all 1742 children, were registered in London. In nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-53 the average number was 1466.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.253 in. The mean reading was above 30 in. on every day of the week. The highest was 30.388 in. on Monday, the lowest 30.040 in. on Saturday. The reading rose to 30.43 in. by 9 p.m. on Monday. The mean temperature of the week was 49.9 deg., which is 5.7 deg. above the average of the same week in 38 years. The mean temperature of each day was above the average of the same day throughout the week, and on Saturday it rose to 9.2 deg. above the average. The highest temperature of the week was 68.2 deg., and occurred on Saturday; the lowest was 33.9 deg. on Tuesday, showing a range in the week of 34.3 deg. The mean dew-point temperature was 42.4 deg., between which and the mean air-temperature the difference was 7.5 deg. The wind was variable, blowing first from the north and north-east, on Tuesday from the north-west, on Wednesday and Thursday from the west, and afterwards till the end of the week generally from the south-west. There was no rain.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Queen held a court on Monday, and received the Lord Mayor and 100 Common Councilmen of the City of London, to receive an address tendering the support of the City in the war with Russia. The Queen expressed her great satisfaction; the Lord Mayor, Mr. Anderton, and Mr. Wire kissed hands, and withdrew.

Rear-Admiral Vergin had his first audience of the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, to present his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the King of Sweden and Norway.

Lord Raglan had an audience of the Queen on the same day, and the Duke of Cambridge also visited her Majesty, and took leave, on proceeding to join the expedition to Turkey.

The Court left London on Thursday, and proceeded to Windsor.

There is a statement current that the Chevalier Bunsen, who has so long and so ably represented Prussia at the Court of St. James's, has been recalled by his Government. This has not been officially announced, but there seems no doubt of the fact. He is a sacrifice to the Russian influence that prevails in the private councils of the vacillating king.

A Court of Directors was held on Wednesday at the East India House, when the thanks of the Court were voted unanimously to Mr. Russell Elice, chairman, and Major James Oliphant, deputy-chairman, for their great application and attention to the affairs of the East India Company during the past year.

At another court, held on Thursday, Major Oliphant was chosen chairman, and Mr. Elliot Macnaghten deputy-chairman, of the East India Company.

The Commissioners for the Affairs of India have appointed the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, M.P., the Right Hon. Lord Ashburton, Mr. John Shaw Lefevre, C.B., the Reverend Henry Melvill, B.D., Principal of Haileybury College, and the Reverend Benjamin Jowett, Fellow and Tutor of Balliol College, Oxford, to be a committee for the purpose of considering the best means of carrying out the clauses of the Government of India Act of last session under which admission to the College of Haileybury will hereafter be open to competition.

Sir Alexander Cockburn was re-elected for Southampton, on Wednesday, without opposition. Having accepted the office of Recorder of Bristol, he was compelled to go again before his constituents.

The Bristol Town Council have reduced the salary of the Recorder from 700*l.* a year to 300*l.* a year.

Mr. Edward Romilly, one of the commissioners of the Audit Board since 1836, has been appointed chairman of the Board, vice Sir William Herries, resigned.

It is probable that Mr. Phinn, Member for Bath, will succeed Mr. Justice Crowder as counsel to the Admiralty.

Mr. Charles Cavendish Clifford has succeeded Mr. R. W. Grey as private secretary to Lord Palmerston. Mr. Grey, before offering himself for election at Liskeard, resigned his appointment, it being contrary to law for a member of the House of Commons to hold such an office, or at least to receive the salary attached to it. Mr. Clifford is the son of Sir Augustus Clifford, Usher of the Black Rod.

It is stated that Major-General Darling, an old Peninsular and Waterloo officer, will succeed General Mercer Henderson as colonel of the 68th Light Infantry; that Sir Willoughby Cotton removes from the 98th Regiment to the 32nd, vice Sir Richard Armstrong, to be succeeded, as colonel of the 98th, by Sir William L. Herries, C.B., K.C.H. Major-General John Macdonald, C.B., commanding the Kilkenny district, will probably obtain the next regiment that may become vacant.—*Globe*.

Mr. Disraeli presided over the annual dinner of the Artists' Benevolent Institution, on Saturday, subscriptions 2392*l.*; and Mr. Monckton Milnes presided at the dinner of the General Theatrical Fund Society, on Monday, subscriptions 500*l.*

The *Gotha Gazette* publishes the following singular communication:—"Several newspapers have circulated the report, that before long there will appear at St. Petersburg a secret correspondence, carried on without the knowledge of the English Government, between the courts of England and Russia, and which would seriously compromise Prince Albert. We are authorised to announce respecting this correspondence, that the English court awaits the publication of it with an interest so much the greater, inasmuch as on the part of England it is confined to the usual notifications of births, &c."

The movement for effecting the admission of Dissenters to the Universities is proceeding with great vigour. Already 150 petitions, having 8000 signatures, have been presented, and it is known that many others are in course of signature. These petitions had proceeded from public meetings, congregations, corporations, and colleges, and other educational bodies, and have, we understand, been signed by a considerable number of Churchmen, who readily acknowledge the justice of the claim which Dissenters are now pressing.

The national feeling of the stewards of the Ascot races has led them to decline this year the gift of the Emperor of Russia, known as the Emperor's Vase, and for the last nine years the great racing prize at Ascot. There will be a race for the old Ascot cup instead.

Government, respecting the cry of justice to Scotland, has determined to purchase, at a cost of 7000*l.*, a site for an Industrial Museum at Edinburgh.

Nearly a million sterling was collected from Thursday to Saturday—the first days of the new duty—for tea duties.

The will of the late Lord Londonderry has been proved under 335,000*l.* This is exclusive of the collieries and settled estates of the families of Vane and Londonderry.

A return has been printed, by order of the House of Commons, of the number of volunteers for the Militia enrolled in the different counties of England and Wales during the year 1853, and of the number who attended the training and exercise, and the expenses incurred in providing store-rooms for their arms and clothing. The entire number authorised to be raised is 80,000, but only 66,280 had been enrolled, and of these but 51,561 attended the training.

The journals of Ceylon report that some sailors returning from Australia have found gold in Ceylon. The men, it is said, were struck by the likeness of the country to the gold fields of Australia. It seems certain that some gold has been found.

The annual gallant struggle on the Thames, between the boats of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, came off on Saturday. The course was from Putney to Mortlake. Oxford went steadily ahead, and won by four boats' lengths. It must be remarked that the Oxford eight was manned by heavier men.

We have just learnt that a seizure has been effected at

Glasgow, on the premises of Messrs. Napier, of two pairs of marine steam-engines, of 400 and 450 horse power, adapted for screw line-of-battle ships or heavy frigates, manufactured under contract for the Russian Government. It appears that, as in the case of other recent seizures, some attempt has been made to set up a sub-contract for transferring these engines to a Hamburg house, Merck and Co., in order to evade their confiscation as Russian property. They were seized on the evening of the 11th of April.—*Times*.

An Austrian 40-gun frigate was launched at Northam, in Hampshire, on Thursday. Northam is situated on the river Itchen, a short distance from Southampton. The frigate is nearly 2000 tons burden, and was built by Messrs. Wigram.

The two murderers—Thompson who killed the Norwich jeweller, Beha, and Holman, who murdered his wife at Bodmin, were executed last week. Both made a confession of guilt.

A farmer named Robinson has been committed for trial at Blaxton, Yorkshire, for so beating, starving, and maltreating his mother, as to cause her death. He used to horsewhip her, and keep her in a back kitchen without fire or food on the long winter nights.

Mr. Francis Anderson, hairdresser, was the other night killed in Old-street, in a wonderful manner. He was walking with his nephew, when a man named Daley, a prize-fighter, rushed upon him, and dealing two severe blows, broke his head. He died the same night. No sort of provocation was given. The man was walking home peacefully; in a moment he lay mortally wounded. Daley is committed for murder.

A half-intoxicated private of the 16th Lancers, named Banks, went to a menagerie at Carlow, and stupidly thrust his hand into the lion's cage. Of course the beast took instant possession. With wonderful pluck and presence of mind Banks did not move his hand. The keeper came, threw a bullock's head into the cage, and the lion left the hand for the head.

The police made a capital discovery on Wednesday. A man offered a parcel of Berlin wool for sale at the identical warehouse whence it had been taken. This led to inquiry, and to the discovery of a great mass of property in the house of a man named Moses, in Houndsditch. Moses is in custody.

A man imprisoned in a round-house at Aldermaston, Berkshire, for being disorderly, set fire to his bed with intent to burn down his prison. He only burnt himself to death.

Railway accidents seem about to recur. We have two under notice, both of which appear to belong to the class preventable. In the first case, a train is forced off the rails, on the Manchester and Huddersfield branch, near Mossley, in consequence of the wooden key of a rail not being in its place; and the driver is killed, the stoker hopelessly wounded, and the hip-joint of a passenger dislocated. In the second, two trains follow each other into the Clarlborough tunnel, on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line; the first a heavy coal train, the second a light goods train. Steam fills up the tunnel, and it is supposed, blinds the driver of the second train. A collision ensues; the driver is killed, and the stoker severely injured.

There is in operation for the purposes of trial at the Great Northern Railway a plan which bids fair to establish that great desideratum in railway travelling, an instantaneous communication between the guards and drivers on the engines. It is the invention of M. Leon Gluhman.

THE TWO CARLYLES.

We have received a communication from Mr. Bosworth with reference to the letter which appeared in our last under this heading, and demanding the name of the writer.

Mr. Bosworth's statement convinces us that he is not justly liable to the imputation of our correspondent. Indeed that letter appeared to us to be unjustified by the facts that it comprised, and we had condemned it as improper for publication. Its appearance in our columns was the result of one of those accidents to which printing-offices are liable; and the statement of that fact is sufficient expression of our regret at the occurrence.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, April 15th.

VERY little additional light has been thrown by the recent despatches on the conduct of the German Powers. Austria and Prussia have still to make up their "little difference"; and probably the only thing that will steady the King of Prussia will be the roar of the cannon in the Baltic, and the sharp rattle of the musketry, and the irresistible charge of the Allies on the plains of Bulgaria.

Intelligence has been received in Paris that the fleet under Admiral Parseval-Deschênes sailed on Wednesday from Brest, for the Baltic, to join the English squadron under Admiral Napier.

For some time past the garrisons in the various towns on the frontiers of Savoy, and in the departments of the Doubs, Jura, and Alsace, have been gradually augmented, and now amount to a very formidable army. The dubious attitude of Prussia and Austria is the principal cause of the measure.

Letters from Paris state, upon good authority, that there is no truth whatever in the reported recall of Chevalier Bunsen from London.—*Standard*.

A Berlin letter asserts that "the Emperor of Russia is to reside, during the war, alternately at Revel and at St. Petersburg. The Grand Duke, heir presumptive to the throne, is to proceed to Helsingfors, and the Grand Duke Constantine will assume

the command of a division of the Russian fleet, which, protected by 800 pieces of cannon, will cast anchor within the fortifications of the seven islands at Sveaborg. It is thought that the English fleet will first proceed to Libac, on the western coast of Courland, towards the Bay of Riga, to invest the three islands in front of that port, and that it will endeavour to destroy the fortifications of Revel. There are no men-of-war before Revel, for that town does not protect a fleet sufficiently."

The Danish correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, writing on the 9th, says—"I cannot of course give you the *verba ipsissima* used by Admiral Napier on his visit to the King, which was both long and pleasant. But I shall not be far wrong if I assure you that it was a most important interview, in the course of which he asked, on behalf of England and France, considerable modifications in the evidently untenable position of Denmark as to its passive neutrality. While acknowledging that the refusal to declare coals 'contraband of war' had excited the most friendly feelings, he gave it as his opinion that the time was now come when the whole neutrality must be considerably modified. It is said that the gallant admiral will make a similar declaration to the King of Sweden."

There is nothing of political importance in the Madrid journals of the 8th. Tranquillity having been re-established at Barcelona, a court-martial had commenced a searching investigation into the causes and circumstances of the recent movements.

The *Pacific* steamer, Captain Nye, has arrived to-day, with dates from New York of the 1st inst. War with Spain was predicted.

We have reason to believe that Rear-Admiral Bruce, recently returned from the coast of Africa, will shortly hoist his flag as commander-in-chief of a light squadron, for the protection of the trade and ports of the northern and north-east coasts.—*Standard*.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Now, there is a fair and delicate town, a corporation called MANSOUL; a town for its building so curious, for its situation so commodious, for its privileges so advantageous (I mean with reference to its original), that I may say of it, as was said before of the continent in which it is placed, "There is not its equal under the whole heaven." As to the situation of this town, it lies between the two worlds; and the first founder and builder of it, so far as by the best and most authentic records I can gather, was one SHADNAR; and he built it for his own delight. He made it the mirror and glory of all that he made, even the top-piece, beyond anything else that he did in that country. Yea, so goodly a town was Mansoul, when first built, that it is said by some, the gods, at the setting up thereof, came down to see it, and sung for joy. And as he made it goodly to behold, so also mighty to have dominion over all the country round about. Yea, all were commanded to acknowledge Mansoul for their metropolitan, all were enjoined to do homage to it. *Ay, the town itself had positive commission, and power from her king, to demand service of all, and also to subdue those that anyways deny it.*

Beati sunt qui moriuntur in Domino! Before we fight let us pray. I, a soldier, waiting my time, say so. And it was the Premier's proposal to the Primate for the prayer-day, on the 26th, that brought Bunyan's "Holy War" down from my library shelves. *Precies* and dry powder with all my heart, Lieutenant and Captain Arthur McM. writes to my dismay from Malta, "that the Guards can't get on well with the French officers. These latter, mostly men from the ranks, poorly bred, with a dash of a parvenu in position, have scoffed once or twice, at English Grenadiers, and the Highland lads in full kit. A sentinel was unceremoniously stopped by the staring astonishment of a Sabreur, who, in pure comcombray, pointing to the Gael's short clothes, exclaimed, 'Eien si leam que ga!' A piece of breeding that should have returned him forthwith to Paris to practise better manners. The first feeling of a Frenchman is for his integuments everywhere.

Governor Reid quietly tells our home authorities, that "the island is so full that if any more troops come, they'll fall off." Fancy soldiers packed upright on an island like bundles of cigars on end on a cask. Dundas's signal is properly pithy at last, "burn, sink, and destroy any Russian you meet." *Inter alius* rates the *St. George* is in the Channel, waiting her complement of men. The old pensioned volunteers on board are stiffish, though willing; homeward-bound merchantmen are waited for to supply the deficits. Sir Baldwin Walker has by him the plans of twelve new screw steamers, between 400 and 500 tons, specially to be built for the Baltic. These lighter craft in action are quick and venomous, like wasps, draw little water, and can be handled like a Deal lugger. Admiral Berkeley (all the B. blood are hasty) got into a scrape with the Admiralty, by whipping off the poor fellows on board the *Cumberland*, 70; only home this month from the Pacific. Not a seaman was allowed to go ashore, either to wash his clothes, or visit his sweetheart! Of course there's been a mutiny, and it's a

good thing that Henry Seymour, young, sensible, and a real sailor, commands the ship, or there'd ha' been hot pitch and the devil to pay when they got to the Baltic. The very error too, for which the *Times* and we, recalled Sir Fleetwood Pellew from the China Seas!

On Saturday I took a hairy Yankee to the Zoological Gardens. Nothing pleased him more than the hearing that "the American alligator was infinitely healthier and happier than the African monster." The attendant on the fish reports that his lively charge thrive well and spawn: all save the lobsters and shell fish, who, crustaceous like, and of slow habit, take their time in perpetuating their race: "the rind of a crab is composed of y'e see of infinite layers, and is not made in a day." I believed all I heard, being so intensely ignorant on zoology. The hippopotamus was in his bath—the ant-eater under his tail, as usual; there is a young lion seven months old, in company with a mongrel bull-dog, both intimates, and attached to each other warmly. I speak of these gardens as being accessible to all classes, humanising, and suggestive of odd contemplation—monkeys and men.

Christmas bills are by words as "household ills:" my bills come in at Christmas: but it is after March that the duns come out and sit, *Jamblores sine motu*, at my house in Chesham-place. The Society of Arts bores me more than any institution into which I have been inveigled. Having spent all their funds, with a thought, like Charles Surface, of pawing the heir-loom pictures, this society rose all at once from its ashes and embarrassments, and began a new existence, out of debt. Nobody used to pay his subscription: now everybody does, principally through the active dunning organised by the council, by letter, card, attendant, note in their journal, personal demand at their meetings, &c. &c. There is Mr. D., the collector, who is a very death's-head of duns. Why hasn't Sir Peter put down dunning?

Combes, as usual, sold me in the boat race. I am born for a victim for vice!

Disraeli was ministerial, pompous, and with but one good speech at the Artists' dinner on the 8th. Monckton Milnes, at the General Theatrical Fund feed on Monday, oratorised like a dramatic lecturer; long and somnolising. T. P. Cooke made the best speech of the evening. Albert Smith was out of place: a smaller area is better filled by his rapid picturesque sing-song elocution. Tom Taylor, a sort of admirable Crichton in everything but his dress, is deservedly popular with artists and actors. If a country cousin would like to know the dinner *par excellence* of the season, for stars and garters, solemnity and a loving cup, let him betake himself to Merchant Taylors' Hall on the 10th of May, at a feast for the Sons of the Clergy, where Lord Mayor sits between Prince Albert and the Primate of England, and where a bishop pronounces the "*nunc edamus*."

Do you suppose that Lord Grey will worry himself into the Ministry. Look to the *Times*. He's a good hack, but raw, here and there, and shies desperately. I would put a pertinacious place-hunter into a park-keeper's uniform, and make him the cicerone or custodian of the Duke of York's Pillar and its corkscrew stairs. 'Twould be handy for my Lord, living in Carlton-terrace.

To my pleasant surprise, the Eykyn (coarse-Eykyn) Brothers wrote me from 'Change-alley that there was a dividend, at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, at the half-yearly meeting of the Agra and United Service Bank, held at Calcutta last February. I can't get more than 6 out of Lady M.'s shares in any of the metropolitan banks—and why?

My friend John Bruce Norton has sent me his book on the Requirements, &c., of Madras—"Double government," "Ryotware-Zemindare system;" roads, railways, canals, loans; "Dittum," "Jumabundy," "Puttals and Revenue," topics of fear to an ignorant and indolent man as myself. The writer is a sound and spirited "statesman in the egg," and will help to rout that old omnipotent oligarchy in Leadenhall-street, headed by Hogg with a large family. Two wonderful men repose in the penetralia of the East India House; Peacock, who wrote *Headlong Hall*, and John Mill, who beats Bentham and Smith by long chalks. "Dem all civilians and all that's civil," says the young Emperor of Austria. Bird writes from Vienna "of the painful feeling among the citizens that neither the burghmaster nor any other representative of the capital is to be present at the marriage of the Emperor, although the whole corps of officers belonging to the garrison will be permitted to possess the church."

Entering "The Prince's" smoking rooms (Who is the Prince? and what a strange lot of nobodies are to be found there!), A—, that Merry-Andrew of the London amateurs, who hates newspaper men, twigg'd my long coat—"Oratorian!"—"Hippocrates!"—and so on. You, as a gentleman, will be pleased to hear that, ere long, the "educated" man of dress will again be to be recognised. Every man, either by himself or his tailor, should be instructed how to clothe himself; there's been a vile equality of late years between your garments and your neighbour's. This unnatural state of things is about to cease; "the difference in quality of material will operate successfully against the cutting system. Moses' men will be detectable. One, to

whom I owe much, much more than I can ever pay, "debeo, eternumque debeo," at 5, St. James's-street, informs me that "long coats are in vogue, and that the trousers are fuller, touching just the top of the instep, and coming straight round the bottom." "Colours are a matter of taste and discretion, but all tending to brighter hues." "The appointments of silk and velvet are again visible." Isn't that the true Nugee Nuge? A man about town needs three auxiliaries—a tailor, a doctor, and a lawyer: the tailor shields him against the weather and want of fashion; the doctor against the maladies of civilised society; and the lawyer against misunderstandings with mankind in general.

The week has been dull in town, except in quiet Ministerial dinners,—called Passion Week, 'cos there's no excitement—no theatres—only promenade concerts, which are unbearable without Julien; and the east wind, which has congested more free livers than mine, I dare say. Lady M. has been crocheting by my side for the last three days in my dressing-room, whence this is written.

Thank Heaven, to-day I start for the French capital—following Lord Raglan and the Duke of Cambridge, who were off, as you saw, last Monday night. The Duchess of Cambridge afterwards went, on Tuesday, to Kew, for the Easter holidays. I saw her Royal Highness two days after the departure. The Baron says—she spoke of her son as a mother should speak: "He is gone to fight for his country; and my son will neither shame his rank as a prince, nor his birth as an Englishman."

Only two or three regiments pass through Paris and South France—a very wise provision—the Rhone is hardly navigable from want of water; broken by islands and distributed over vast space. The stony mountains and dusty roads in its neighbourhood necessitate the moustache to be worn as an anti-poussiere. Les Iles d'Or are pleasant, however, for a pleasure-seeker. Olives, figs, oranges, roadside aloes and myrtles, in a land only ten miles east of Toulon!

The Bazaar at Drury-lane proved *nulle magne tremulationes*—people don't like this charitable dodge as much as they did: one chooses to give one's money and ha' done with it: but not to be impetrated or implored out of it, for trumpery that's of no earthly use but to put behind the fire. I bought a pretty little sketch of two of the Chobham soldiers, drawn by Mrs. Felix Pryor, of Ankerwycke, who sent six to the stalls.

Those of the painters whom Lady M. would drag me to visit (you know how tenacious women are of public promises, and I made you one last week), were well worth the trouble of reclining in the brougham to and from the Studios. Stanfield, the supreme of scene-painters, has a grand picture "In the Pyrenees." Roberts, the most educated of architectural artists, will send to Trafalgar-square two pictures of Venice—his studies at Rome are but just transported home; they say, he meditates a view of the *Urbs Unica*, thirty feet long! Macleise is to present us with "The Marriage of Strongbow"—vide Lingard—rich pomp, valiant figures; mailed and female, as Poole used to say, in front; swelling the triumph of the happiest hour of a man's life; and the Omega of all, in the background of the picture, is a distant burial-scene—a contrast to check strong health and hilarity—"Nunquam animus." "A Visit to the Lady of the Village" by little children, has all Webster's kindly pathos and easy sentiment; 'tis an old careworn life juxtaposed to the fresh, hopeful innocence of childhood—the dawn and the dark of days. Mulready with but one picture, careful and conscientious. Ward has completed his "Sleep of Argyle"—full of power and reality. "A Watering Place," by Frith, is highly commendable. Sir E. Landseer will not be persuaded to exhibit his noble presentation of the "Return from Deer-Stalking at Balmoral." The Council of the Great Exhibition forms a good group for Phillips: all the portraits are striking, save that of the greatest man there, Sir Robert Peel, the lamented. My Lord Derby is the best looking of the batch: the gamecock and mettled racer have their types even at a sitting of senators. That crafty Mr. Cole is very cleverly caught. That quaint, shrewd, and hard-working artist, Aug. Egg, deserves all praise for his picture, in two compartments, of the Life and Death of Buckingham; the one a swinging carousel; the other his last breath amid dirt and misery. I can't quote Dryden's lines. Creswick, G. Hering, and J. Dillon have all charming landscapes.

J. W. Glass, who began by shady sketches of Charles the First and Second periods—glimpses of lean ladies attended by love-lorn cavaliers on well-shaped steeds, and who advanced into portraits of most troopers, Goring's gentlemen, and wild sportsmen generally, has a fine picture of "Richard and Saladin crossing the Desert," full of life and light, brilliantly painted. This gentleman is of great promise; he has an instinct for equestrian portraits specially, with not very high art; he is a little too old to learn, as I hear, but the *natural vis videtur* is in him. Audsall has a large snow scene with wolves attacking a traveller's horse; the master, like many another horseman, is helping himself.

Bon soir. I am very sleepy. I have had no visitors to-day, save a dull, radical lord, J. P. Harley, the comedian, and the racing Smith. My lord made me listless; the second made me weak with laughter at his jokes; the third chilled me by his short, snappish, worldlywise chit-chat. Words! words! as Hamlet says, and words only add I. I'm drooping, there's no doubt about it, and it's my French trip that will restore to me, as my little boy Fred says, the *mens sanay in corpore sano*. M. M.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 7, Wellington-street, Strand, London.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

ERRATUM in No. III. of "Pan-Hellenism and Pan-Slavism in Turkey."—Third column, line 5, "It is not only that the agitations felt in Hungary, &c., are the result," read, "The agitations felt in Hungary, &c., are not the result."

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1854.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

WHAT A "LEAGUE" COULD DO.

THE English people is at the present moment incompetent for public action. We do not say this with any desire to complain, or with any feeling of hopelessness. We believe that the inaction which has seized upon us has reached its greatest point, and that no change can happen from this day which is not likely to be for the better. But the more we understand how completely the inaction of the English people places it at the mercy of sectional classes, private interests, political cliques, and diplomatic professions, the sooner is the nation likely to arouse itself from its political nightmare. Indeed, it is arousing itself on the one subject of the war, and it is through that great summons that we expect to see the life of the nation thoroughly revived.

Let us take some of the recent and more striking instances of the inertness. England has interfered in the case of Turkey; but according to some politicians, who are not without a show of evidence, the professed objects of the war and English interests are equally sacrificed in a treacherous subserviency to Russia. There is also an idea that the very purpose for which we enter into the contest will be sacrificed to the convenience of particular royal families; yet the people do not care to interfere in the matter. There is a general admission that there ought to be a Reform Bill extending the franchise, yet no Reform Bill can be carried.

The Reform Bill proposed by Ministers would have been an improvement upon the existing system, and its fate shows how impotent the real public suffers itself to be. All classes agree that there should be some amendment—the very Tories do not deny it; but each class takes its own view of the amendment, and none has so much power as to command the majority. A number of statesmen who happen through an extraordinary combination of affairs which permits an administration unopposed by party to be in office together, have concurred in framing such a Reform Bill as should not essentially alter the present arrangements, but yet should correct some of the most obvious abuses, and should really extend the franchise in a manner favourable to further reform. The measure was not what the working classes could ask,—they would not have refused it; it alarmed nobody; it would have been a real improve-

ment; but it is not carried. Why? Because certain Radicals of the manufacturing class dislike Ministers, and wish to stop a Ministerial measure; because the Tories would postpone any reform as long as possible; because each small borough, anxious to preserve itself, would require its Members to vote against the whole Bill; because Parliamentary agents dislike a reform that would interfere with their trade; because the classes already enfranchised feel no impulse to help in extending the suffrage to the whole body of the people; and because the great body of the people, having totally abandoned the idea of managing for itself, has sunk into apathy. Thus an immense mass of passive indifference, or disguised hostility to reform, leaves the people at one end sunk into despondency on the subject, and the statesmen at the other end putting forward small intentions without the power of carrying them to fulfilment.

The accusation against Ministers, of pursuing a treacherous subserviency to Russia, is a still more formidable charge than that of neglecting reform; yet it is one which, from the disorganised state of the public, cannot be reduced to confirmation or refutation. The story has many versions. One recently repeated at a meeting in Stafford is, that Lord Palmerston, acting as the instrument of Russia, invariably cajoles and guides the unconscious Government of England into such a course as results in fulfilling the wishes of Russia. According to this view, the only theory which accounts for the alliance of England with Austria,—while Austria is playing the game of Russia in Turkey, and while there are no guarantees against the eventual combination of France with our continental enemies,—lies in that tale of Lord Palmerston's treachery which Mr. Urquhart has kept before the world for some fifteen years. We have before considered that the problem is solved by Lord Palmerston's devotion to the usages, objects, and dictates of the diplomatic clique which really governs Europe. Another form of accusal is, that the English Ministry for the time being usually shows a national incompetency to contend with foreign diplomatists, and is habitually overreached. The great expounders of this explanation regard themselves as the only exceptions to incompetency; for they are, Lord Malmesbury and his supporters, Mr. Disraeli and the Earl of Derby. Now, circumstantial evidence is logically no evidence at all, until the chain be completed by the positive link which is wanting—actual proof of some one criminating fact. In political as in social affairs, any tale can be proved on circumstantial evidence; the "Man in the Iron Mask" or "Junius" can be anybody who was alive at the time. But it is a serious and a practical evil that such questions should rest upon circumstantial evidence. Accustomed to shut themselves up in their own class, to consort socially with people of their own order, or even their own circle of acquaintance,—daily increasing in the disuse of congregated action,—the inhabitants of England are becoming separated into small circles which really know nothing of each other. Those who have been framing a measure of reform know nothing whatever as to the feelings, the faculties, or habits of those whom they fear to admit at once to the suffrage. In like manner, those who are accused of meditating if not pursuing high treason to their country, permit themselves, their motives, their feelings, and their habits of mind to remain totally unknown to the nation, except through set speeches in public.

Under such circumstances, it is drawing too fast upon the future to propose any extensive union of the people in "a league" for a specific purpose. We have repeatedly shown that the liberties of a country do not

consist in privileges granted to the people by other orders, but in the freedom secured by the people themselves. In like manner, a national unity cannot be the result of any dictated organisation, but only of common feeling—a common feeling superior to cliquish notions, to closet refinements, or to sectional interests. If the people are apathetic, and do not interfere with the Government, that circumstance is a fact, and it constitutes the warrant of the Government in carrying on public affairs, as if the idea prevalent amongst the people had suffered judgment to go by default. While the English people leave questions of Reform to Ministers, or even to the enfranchised classes, no Reform Bill such as the millions could adopt will be passed, or even proposed. While the English people leave the conduct of affairs to diplomatists, foreign affairs will be conducted after the fashion of diplomatists, and not after that of nations. Examples of the two methods are furnished at present by England, which leaves its public affairs to diplomatists, and America, whose people stand forward and exercise an active voice in directing their own affairs abroad as well as at home.

If, indeed, the English people were in a condition to act together, there is plenty for it to do. If it can see something better than "difficulties" in every enterprise, something more important than criticism on secondary details, it could soon be in the midst of deeds. The correspondent who takes exception to our article on this subject, last week, powerfully illustrates the condition of the English mind at present. Our fair correspondent totally loses sight of the main question in a number of minor considerations respecting the abstract right of the Americans to Cuba. Respecting the merits of that question we have ourselves no doubt. Authorities on international law recognise the right of any party in a state to call in an ally during civil war; and the Cuban insurgents possess that right; which, if they were to succeed, would be ratified by the constituted authority of the island. Beyond that technicality, however, Cuba is essentially and geographically American. As much so as Gibraltar is Spanish; and if Spain had half the manhood which resides in the English or American people, or which has resided in the Spaniards themselves, England would be unable to hold that pillar of the Mediterranean gate. Should there be anything in the nature of a war in the Gulf of Mexico, military necessities alone would render it imperative for America to occupy the island; necessities which have always been permitted to override mere political considerations.

The question of "right," however, in Cuba has nothing to do with the topic which we were discussing. It is the conviction of the Americans that they ought to take possession of Cuba; they have the power to take it; and the union of conviction and power, as we have more than once shown, constitutes the nearest approach to a definition of right of which reason is capable. Russia, if she have the conviction and power to seize Turkey, would have the right to seize it; but we have the conviction and power to prevent her, and her right ceases. We have no conviction on the subject of Cuba, and do not intend to prevent the American. It is the fact that the idea of the conquest of Cuba possesses the Americans; and instead of treating it as an abstract question, to talk about, they at once organize themselves to do it. To effect the annexation by purchase they regard as an indulgence to the Spaniards; and so do we. The Americans, unquestionably, would even have let the Spaniards keep the island, if they could have kept it on neighbourly terms.

Now there is work which Englishmen might do in Europe, of a more disinterested kind,

though scarcely less important to the ultimate interests of England. From the speeches of M. Vincke and M. Bethmann Holweg, in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, it is evident that in the most educated Prussians, as well as the body of the people, there are not only feelings of the strongest sympathy with England, but a strong desire and a strong capacity for conducting affairs in that manner which we call "constitutional." The Court of Prussia is more than suspected of placing the resources of the kingdom at the service of the general enemy. The same sympathies and the same capacity have been shown in Piedmont, whom Austria is already denouncing as a "turbulent neighbour;" evidently with the intention, under shelter of the English alliance, of doing some injury to the Sardinian kingdom. And the English people, incapacitated for action, seems as if it would suffer its Government to betray constitutional and English interests by sacrificing Sardinia to our "ally." The opposite policy is that which it would well become a national association to enforce. Without making conquests for ourselves, we might stand up for every nation that, by adopting our institutions and our principles, practically entered into a League with us for sustaining and extending English institutions in Europe. There is a danger in being isolated as we have become; and one danger touches us at home. There are fashions in governing; and our Government too much assimilates to the fashion of political conduct on the continent. Let us extend the region of constitutional government, and we strengthen ourselves as well as our neighbours. But that is not to be done by the force of "moral" support. To speak more plainly, it is only by meeting the enemy in the field, and fighting hard against the armies and intrigues of the Absolutist, that the influence of English institutions can be extended. We believe that no nation continues to be great after it has ceased to be a conquering nation; and there is a field of conquest open to the English people, if that people should recover the spirit and strength to draw the sword in support of the national flag.

HOW AND WHERE ENGLISHMEN ARE MADE LOYAL.

ANOTHER colony has given its testimony to the loyalty which resides at the heart of the British people, when loyalty is observed towards that people. The colony of Nova Scotia has made a declaration to Queen Victoria, which a Ministerial journal has cited as a lesson to the Opposition; but which we, in turn, might hold up as a lesson to English statesmen of whatsoever party, and most especially to the men now in office. The House of Assembly has unanimously adopted an Address proposed by Mr. Secretary Howe, which the reader will find entire in another page, and which is well worth his perusal. A nobler declaration by a national body was never made. The Nova Scotians assure their Queen, that wherever the national flag is borne their sympathies will follow it, and that in triumph and disaster the efforts of its gallant defenders will ever be marked with deep interest in this portion of the empire. This declaration is proposed by one of the Ministers of the colony, it is seconded by the leader of the Opposition, and the *Globe* justly points to this example as one of patriotic feeling over-riding party conflict, which might be a lesson to our own leaders of the Opposition. This is not the first time that Nova Scotia has behaved with the same fidelity to the imperial interests; nor is Nova Scotia alone: Canada has made the same declaration, and has set to Nova Scotia the example of that practical promise which is appended to the declaration.

"Should the land forces now in this province be required elsewhere, your Majesty may rely upon the loyalty and devotion of the Nova Scotia militia, who, until the return of peace in Europe, will defend their own country, and protect your Majesty's forts and arsenals from foreign aggression."

Let us remember what community it is whose freely-elected representatives thus step forward and offer their services to the Queen. Nova Scotia is a colony distinguished by the comparative hardness of its climate, by the sturdiness of its inhabitants, and by their independence. Mr. Howe himself was the leader in an Opposition which, with the Colonial Reformers in this country, did much to bring about "responsible government" in the colonies. It might almost be said that by great perseverance, tact, and moderation, the Opposition of which Mr. Howe was the head had already enforced a Ministerial responsibility in Nova Scotia by virtue of public opinion, before it was technically granted through Lord Sydenham to Canada. Mr. Howe, we believe, was a printer; he was the proprietor of the *Nova Scotian*, a journal of great ability, in whose leading columns he put forth those practical and truly English sentiments, which worked their way, through the Legislature, into the administration. It was as leader of the Opposition that on a former occasion he gave the example which was now returned to him in kind by the present leader of the Opposition. He is therefore, in his own person, at once an exemplar of the independence and of the loyalty of the colony; he shows the success of popular agitation, and the success also of the Ministerial concession; he has won for his countrymen the self-government through representative and responsible administration which Englishmen boast of establishing for themselves,—which they have enjoyed when they have acquired the right by the force of their own action; and he is a living proof that when the independence of Englishmen is thus recognised, in lieu of wasting the strength thus acquired in barren glorification, they rally round the Government. They recognise the compacts of our unwritten Constitution the more faithfully because spontaneously.

In an American question it might have been supposed that Nova Scotia had some interest; but in the present case selfish considerations could scarcely prevail. There can be little fear among men with the practical knowledge and sagacity of Mr. Howe and his leading coadjutors, that, defended by France, England, and America, the commerce of the world will be injured by the treacheries of Russia, the vacillations of Prussia, or even the reaction of Austria. The very address from which we have quoted shows that the Nova Scotians understand their position; they declare their feelings and their purpose; to quote their own words, "though far removed from what may be the theatre of war."

The Nova Scotians, like the Canadians and the people of New Brunswick, may not be removed from temptations to repay the liberal concessions of the English Government in different coin. There never have been, and never will be wanting restless persons willing to acquire a temporary notoriety by becoming the instruments of annexing Canada, or New Brunswick, or some other English province, to the American Union. The delay of perfect freedom may keep up a mutinous spirit, as it has done in Newfoundland; and thus, on shore, preserve the materials for awkward international questions about the fisheries at sea. There is, we believe, no instance of a province annexed to the Union which has not profited by the motives; so that a purely selfish annexation might carry over any of our provinces.

But there are of course reasons for this generous impulse, which shows itself alike in

Canada and Nova Scotia; and the motive is quite evident. Since Lord Durham visited Canada, the history of British administration has been one of concession to popular power in the North American colonies. Sometimes this concession has been extorted, at other times it has been spontaneous. Lord Durham's proposal was purely the work of a generous and gifted mind; Lord Sydenham's gradual doling out of responsible government was the result of great official tact and cunning, not unmingled perhaps with more manly motives; Lord Metcalfe's administration, if somewhat more conservative, was as pure as it is possible to be; Lord Elgin did not shine amid scenes of turbulence, but politically he has won the confidence of all parties in Canada. The Canadians were prepared to maintain a fierce agitation for the purpose of securing the concession of the clergy reserves, and a less generous people might have said that the final concession of these reserves was extorted by fear; but no such unworthy taunt is thrown out. We cannot forget certain crotchety dictations which disfigured Lord Grey's grant of larger representation to Australia; we do not forget the hesitations which followed Lord John Russell's spontaneous promise of "an English constitution" to the Cape; but in spite of these personal foibles, and especially of Lord Grey's dilatory and vexatious crotchety, the concessions have been granted. In this country, while struggling over the "Bills" of particular years, we have had many reasons to accuse our public men of belying their old professions; but when we look back to the history of the last ten years, and of the last five in particular, we cannot deny that leading English Ministers have shown a willingness to recognise, in the largest acceptance of the word, complete representative and popular government in the colonies. No Minister has shown so comprehensive, so perfect, so practical and courageous a conception of this idea as the present Minister for the colonies; who may be said to have rounded off the separate ideas of his predecessors, and to have developed that policy which dictated liberal measures for separate colonies into a policy of the empire. Of course this fact is not forgotten in Nova Scotia nor in Canada; nor can the colonists overlook the other fact, that the Minister who finished off the popular reform of our colonies, and is still continuing his work in Newfoundland and the West Indies, is the statesman who has the conduct of the war in Europe.

While the Nova Scotians were voting their noble declaration, while the Canadians stand ready to sustain similar feelings and purposes, an Irishman, who "left his country for his country's good," is endeavouring to rouse his countrymen in America and Ireland against England, and on behalf of Russia! If Irishmen remained as ignorant as they once were, this agitation might have some sense and force; but they know better. There is scarcely a youth in Ireland that is not aware how little his country would be benefitted by adopting the autocratic rule of the Czar in lieu of that rule which, bad as it has once been, is better now,—the best that Ireland can hope for. And the Irishmen answer Mr. John Mitchell's exhortation to treason against their Queen and country, by rushing to the recruiting sergeant in Ireland, and by suffering that special Irish agitation, which he could once arouse in America, to languish. Native American jealousy, of pure Irish agitation, also sleeps only because it is not yet worth while for it to rouse itself again. Ireland is as loyal as Nova Scotia, notwithstanding the constant efforts of a priesthood to get up seditious if not treasonable opposition to the national policy of England; but why?

Not only because adversity has schooled the Irish, but because the principle of English Government at present is frankness and consideration for the people who are governed.

Yet there is one thing, with all the loyal disposition of English and Irish, that must rankle in the breasts of those who remain at home. They may quote the deeds of Ministers against Ministers themselves. Complete representation has been given to the English, and Irish, and Scotch, in the colonies. The circumstances of our transmarine provinces are such, that those who remain unfranchised must be very few indeed—none but the most recently arrived. The experiment of granting thorough representation has perfectly answered. The colonies are, politically, independent; and they respond to that confidence by this heartfelt loyalty which they will be prepared to sustain in return. If necessary their militia will stand forward to defend the flag as well as the forts of the empire. In other words, trust the *Englishman* in the colonies completely, and the *Englishman* shows that he is sterling in every sense; that the more he is trusted the more loyal he becomes. But if that is true of the *Englishman* at the Cape or in Canada, is it false of the *Englishman* at home. In their acts Ministers venture to say that it is so. Let them, then, answer this question—Why is it the *Englishman* must cross the sea in order to obtain the full trust of his Government?

OXFORD UNIVERSITY UNDER REPAIRS.

ALTHOUGH the Government measure for the improvement of the University of Oxford was read a second time without a division, this unanimous approval of the principle of the bill by no means extends to its details. It is, however, a remarkable circumstance in the history of public opinion on this question, that a Ministry should be able, at this time, to win the suffrages of the House of Commons in favour of a scheme which, four years ago, would have excited the most violent opposition. The truth is, the struggle has been in vain, and those who entertain the strongest objections to the interference of Parliament in the government and regulation of the Universities are compelled to make the best of their defeat by placing limits on their concessions. This was the course pursued on Friday last by Sir John Pakington. To have divided against the Government would have ended only in humiliating discomfiture, and the Tory Opposition consoled themselves for a most ungracious assent to the principles of the measure by impeaching almost every one of its provisions. The alleged indifference of Government to academical feeling, the confiscation of collegiate property for university purposes, the abolition of oaths taken by Fellows, the interference with founders' wills, experienced, in their turn, a vigour of resistance which showed how unwilling the submission had been. Sir William Heathcote, who occupies pretty much the same position as Mr. Gladstone did four years ago, took a much more sensible view of the measure, but, while acknowledging the general necessity for compulsory action on the part of Government, took exception to the appropriation of collegiate revenues, and the alienation of scholarship and fellowships from public schools. A third party was represented by Mr. Blackett, who objects most strongly to the very points which are most approved by Sir John Pakington and Sir William Heathcote. Mr. Blackett expressed an honourable shame that the Disenters should be called upon to assist in reforming an institution from the benefits of which they are studiously excluded. He very properly described

the clerical influence as the bane and pest of Oxford, and thereby drew from Mr. Gladstone an admission so remarkable, that we shall give it in his own words. "He did not believe it would be possible to induce Parliament to enact provisions which would forcibly alter the clerical influence in Oxford." But "the extension of studies which had taken place in Oxford would undoubtedly, he thought, have a tendency to release them from that influence, and this state of things he did not look at either with dislike or alarm." Amid such strange variety of opinion it is surprising to find an appearance of such general unanimity; but it is obvious that many of the amendments to be proposed by the Tory opposition are, in fact, aggressions upon the essential principle of the bill. On these points it will be impossible for Government to yield, but there is every reason to believe that the measure will undergo material alteration in its progress through committee. It is unlikely that Ministers will feel bound by the restrictions which are proposed on the tenure of fellowships; and we may expect to find that the opinion expressed by almost every speaker as to the importance of connecting exhibitions with public schools, will have effected a considerable modification in that respect.

But what will be done with religious tests? How far is Parliament inclined to favour the admission of Dissenters to the national universities? Or, on what other terms can we demand their interest or their sympathy in favour of university reform? Sir John Pakington had no sooner announced his intention of assenting to the second reading of the bill, on Friday last, than the Dissenting members left the House. What was it to them whether Oxford should be governed by laymen or by clergymen, by heads of houses or professors; what interest could they feel in the disposition of collegiate revenues, or the distribution of fellowships and scholarships so long as they were excluded from partaking in a single benefit to be derived from reform? But the battle may yet be fought in the House of Commons. On the first day after the recess an opportunity will be given for the expression of opinion on this very point; and we wish—we are afraid to hope—that Government could be shamed into a policy demanded alike by every principle of justice, and by the force of public opinion.

THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

THERE is nothing more perplexing than to arrive at a cross-road, and to find no direction for indicating the way you shall go; and every traveller whose weary steps have wandered in strange lands knows how he blesses the direction which tells him how to bend his path "to Such-a-place." How much more delightful would be the discovery of a finger-post telling you which way "to Heaven."

Yet it would appear that the plain road has been discovered—the very shortest road that human beings have yet found out; and we have all the stages of the journey explained on authority.

There is a building in one of the three kingdoms where the whole method of travelling is taught to those who qualify themselves for entering the school; for it is a building so exclusive that none can enter or depart save by promotion and on due qualification. Those who have qualified themselves have received the proper instruction, even as Ulysses and Æneas are feigned to have

received instruction for the journey to a totally different region. The method, then, to follow their example is this. Conspire with some persons that may be willing to murder an unconscious gentleman; which will qualify you for admission into Monaghan gaol; after remaining under the proper instructions of the chaplain of the gaol for a short period, you will be conveyed from the gaol to an open place in the town; in that place there will be specially prepared for you a flight of wooden steps leading on to a platform; on that platform will stand two posts with a cross-bar at top, and from the middle of the cross-bar will hang a loop of rope. The certified path of Heaven, therefore, lies in the road from the place of the murder into the gaol, then to the open place in Monaghan city, up the steps, across the platform, and through the noose. Three men have just performed that journey in Monaghan, and they departed with the assurance that in one moment after they had placed their necks in the noose they would be in Heaven. Mr. Smith told them so.

We have, therefore, the *Bradshaw* of the shortest route to Heaven.

This is no exaggeration: three men,—Quin, Grant, and Coomey,—murdered Mr. Bateson; were tried and condemned, and were hanged on Monday last. The process which they had undergone had thoroughly qualified them for death under the happiest auspices. We still repeat the assurance from their own lips on the authority of Mr. Smith, the chaplain of the gaol. So strong was this conviction that Quin announced his intention, if it had been offered to him, of declining a reprieve. Coomey begged permission to go—"May I now go, gentlemen?" he said—too courteous even to hasten upon his road without leave! The newspaper reporters who visited the men found them walking in the prison yard, after an excellent breakfast; two of them were smoking, and all were in the best of spirits. Instead of exulting in their peculiar grace, they expressed great concern for those who were not equally prepared with themselves. They wished that their visitors might be as ready for death as they were. Not having had the ministrations of Mr. Smith, nor the breakfast,—not being sustained by pious counsel, or pipe of tobacco,—the reporters might feel greater diffidence in offering themselves for the last journey. Moreover, the reporters had not performed a murder; which, we must remember, was a constituent part of the three men's qualification. No wonder, therefore, that the visitors went away much edified, sadder and wiser men, and conscious of the difference between them and the superior beings to whom they had just bid farewell.

There are many inscrutable things in what certain authorities call a religious "persuasion." The public are summoned to witness a capital execution as a means of deterring them from murder and other grave crimes; yet when they come to the spot, they find, on authority which they ought to reverse, that the murderers have become peculiarly qualified for beatification. They are as likely to be perplexed as Christians in Turkey and Russia must be; for there is indeed one eminent person who has excelled Quin, Grant, and Coomey in the vastness of his achievements. Nicholas, who has broken every law, from that of "gentlemen" to that of nations, exhibits himself to his admiring subjects and his expectant allies in Turkey as the Christian *par excellence*. And those who cannot penetrate these mysteries are not more perplexed to understand how Christianity can be promoted by the gigantic swindling of the Czar, than they are to understand its advancement by such exhibitions as that at Monaghan.

A "STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

I VENTURED to ask, at the meeting of Parliament last February, "Why does Parliament meet?" and a proper question now to ask is, "Why are these Easter holidays for Parliament?" We have had eight weeks of a Session; in which time the only thing done has been—the postponement of a Reform Bill. In the "business" of Parliament can any one see any cause for Parliament? Supposing that the recess had been continued thus far into the Session, should we, as a nation, have been worse off or better off than we are now, or, in any other sense in a different position from that which we now occupy? Do we know anything more of the war than we would have known had no Parliament been sitting? Are we in the slightest degree nearer the trifling domestic reform? Perhaps we have gained one advantage from the movement of our magnificent constitutional machinery:—have we not got a double Income-tax? Yes:—so far of the year 1854 Parliament, we can sing what was sung of Parliaments 200 years ago—when "active" and "independent" members were as yet undiscovered:—

"Many things complained of, few things mended:

A subsidy granted—and Parliament's ended!"

But, as there is nothing to do at home, and the interest of the public service requires that a self-governed people should get no information of what is doing abroad, there was great discretion in hurrying on, and extending, the Easter holidays. Why, however, meet again on the 27th? What for? The Reform Bill is dropped—everything is dropped. When there's nothing to do but for Ministers to mention twice a week that the interests of the public service require that no questions should be answered, why should Parliament re-assemble? Mr. Hayter would smile at the question: to vote a second Budget (a treble Income-tax, or a loan) to be sure! To be sure: that is a consideration which suggests how great, indeed, is our advantage over the Continental countries which are without representative institutions. Yet why go through this routine, unsuited to a "crisis" like the present?

The Coalition Cabinet includes the country: has *carte blanche*: and need not go through the formalities of being sneered at by Mr. Disraeli or advised by Mr. Murrough. Rome, when she was in a mess, prorogued indefinitely: and sent for the nearest genius and made him dictator. Are our Cabinet equal to a *coup d'état*,—afterwards, all the Talents to take enlightened despotism by turns? I am convinced if Prince Albert appeared at the bar and ordered Colonel Grey to take away that bauble, the Radicals would cheer him, and the nation would approve. Lord John would cry and hysterically mention Eliot, and Hampden, and Sydney, but in the end would move an address to the Crown, congratulating the Crown on its strong measures: so that it wouldn't matter. Labouchere (who would empty the House, and so be loyal) would solemnly congratulate his noble friend on his disinterested cowardice; and George Grey would extol his noble friend's patriotism in not impeding the national war of a nation which is not represented; and Joseph Hume would say, "Raylly, he was astonished, but then didn't the noble Lord pass the bill of 1832?" and John Bright, overcome by his good-nature, would say that sooner than he would say anything to annoy the noble Lord, why the Constitution be—ah, set on one side. And next day the great English organ which represents Russia would intimate that the common sense of a commercial people would applaud the noble Lord, and sympathise with him in his mental struggle; and the smaller organs, which represent liberalism, and accordingly don't get on among a commercial people, would say, by way of consoling the imaginary distressed liberal readers, "It is true we are sacrificing England, but then see for how great an object—are we not preserving the independence and integrity of that fine people, the Turks?"

As my readers will be kind enough to remember, I did not believe in the sincerity of Ministers when they introduced the Reform Bill, and formed a very strong opinion that it was not a bill for which Liberals should be enthusiastic. I was not greatly surprised at the scene of Tuesday, and certainly cannot deplore the result. I was not greatly surprised, but I was a little surprised, for I thought Lord John had courage and

candour enough to disregard the twaddle about producing confusion, and was party man enough not to throw away what he was supposed to have thought was the last chance which would ever be his to recreate the Whig party—by getting out of the Coalition. But his eventuating tears indicate his state of body; he hadn't health enough to be daring, and so gave in, and was cowed into a great constitutional sneak off, chiefly because, being nervous and assiduously earwigged by the Laboucheres and George Greys, he was afraid he would have carried no party out of the Coalition. For which the House, which, of course, is with difficulty restrained from reforming itself, cheered him with uproarious heartiness, and for which the papers, particularly the gushing Liberal ones, patronised him as a great patriot—a great patriot because, they said, he preferred the advantage of his country to his own advantage. Indeed, his self-suppression, which would not have startled the Romans, is conspicuously glorious in a country whose contractors sell to our noble troops bad hay, and whose shipbuilders do a stroke of business, as privately as possible, with the enemy, and whose young braves (see the Cork papers accounting for increased emigration) rush to America rather than enlist,—though they would enlist to defend civilisation against barbarism.

On the whole, it occurred to me that the scene of Tuesday, when the stern patriot was offering up to his country a virgin Reform Bill, was not very creditable to Great Britain. There are precedents for Lord John's crying: Fox, particularly after a heavy night at faro, wept woefully with all the pathos so exuberant in men when they are pitying themselves. And it is rather honourable than otherwise that the Radicals whimpered, and that the Tories were touched; a tale of woe, if regular heavy woe, appeals to our best feelings and affects us, in spite of ourselves,—just as you will see the oldest stagers plunging into their handkerchiefs when Desdemona is under the bolster, Mrs. Haller is carried off to the left wing, and Pauline Deschappelles goes up the limited staircase, leading on her unexpected mother-in-law, and wondering whether she'll have time to dress properly for the next scene. A drama is dramatic: and Lord John, on Tuesday, was a natural actor, so that he brought down the stall as well as the galleries,—and made even Hayter, the call-boy, feel femal. The speech was a pity the sorrows of a poor old man who had tried a variety of Houses with a variety of Reform Bills, and could not get any of them accepted, sort of speech: and as far as the personal distress of the plaintive vagrant was concerned, it was right and proper in the House to sympathise in the "mental struggle" of a man who had made a mess of a great question, and who didn't know what to do with it or himself. Lord John Russell is the sort of man English gentlemen like, he is so English gentlemanly, and it is not astonishing that while the House of Commons is a club, and not a national senate, the personal liking for the man should within doors overshadow political doubts about the statesman. But out of doors, where, at least among journalists, it is desirable there should be accurate estimates of governing men, the disposition should be rather to laugh at Lord John than to cry with Lord John, and to be angry, rather than sympathetic, with the House of Commons. There is nothing in the career of Lord John Russell to support the Laboucharian theory that Lord John Russell has been the champion of the Liberal cause. I think there would be no commotion about a Reform Bill now, had not the Reform Bill of 1832 been a delusion, foisted upon a dull people by a clever Whig party, and I don't know that Lord John Russell's name can be connected with anything but that celebrated delusion. I think that when Lord John Russell left office a short time ago, after fifteen years' sway of the destinies of Great Britain, he left office because he had passed a petty Puritan bill to insult the religion of the majority of Christendom: and when he left office, he left Continental Europe Russianised, the colonies all in revolt, and England so electorally arranged that her representation had to be acknowledged by himself to be a lie and a fraud. And even were Lord John Russell, in truth, a man entitled to the confidence and condole of Liberals, instead of

being a man whom Liberals should mostly dread as the thing of liberal principles, I don't understand why on Tuesday he should have been so entirely separated, in the consideration and reference of the House of Commons, from his colleagues of the Coalition Government. Granted that Lord John Russell was sincere in introducing his bill, and patriotic in withdrawing it:—was the Coalition Government sincere on "Reform?" Granted that Lord John Russell was unaffectedly sorry, for whatever reason, in being stopped with his bill:—were Lord John Russell's colleagues in the weeping condition of the chief mourners for the dear defunct "party?" These are questions which suggest the elaborateness of the sham of Tuesday's ceremonial; and, therefore, the folly of the pathos. And all the whimpering Radicals and touched Tories were perfectly aware of the sham—in fact, the Radicals laughed, consumedly, for the usual reason, when Mr. Disraeli pointed out that it was sham. The most credulous Radical believed no more, from the beginning, than that Lord John would have preferred to have gone out on the bill;—not even Mr. Hume believed that Lord John wanted the bill carried. And, on the other hand, every one knew that the majority in the Cabinet, who make no disguise of that secret, had looked at the whole of this "Reform row" as a mischievous silliness, impeding the Government, and only amusing Lord John.

What could be done, however? There was Lord John wiping his eyes and sobbing: who could have had the heart to say too rough a truth? It is all very well for strangers and outsiders to sneer and be accurate; but a club is a club, and the House of Commons is a club; and, when you don't feel a nation behind you, as Von Vincke had the other day, to back you and support you, you prefer not to agonise a respectable nobleman whom you may be sitting next to that very evening in the ten-room, begging him to be so kind as to pass the muffin or the milk. He is not bound to read the newspapers; you are bound to believe he doesn't; and you say what you like, and what you think the lofty duties of journalism require you to say, in the imposing bourgeois which symbolises your profession. But you can't be a truth-teller in the House of Commons, if the age is an apathetic age, and you know that nobody—(you know that you don't)—cares anything about the question. See what Shelley got by it. Shelley said the Reform Bill was a sham; and Shelley was worried—Hume was down on him—the Tories yah-ed him; Lord John, trembling with passion, scorned to take any notice of him. Who that remembered the fate of Shelley would have cared to be candid on Tuesday—the House, generous and good-natured, and clubby, being in a mood to vote Lord John an illimitable pension? Nobody did anything so foolish. Mr. Bright, whose moral courage is supported in the club by frequent contact with Manchester, avoided the disaster, and was complimentary—almost caressing. Every one set to soothing the afflicted parent of the early-removed offspring—the gods having evidently fallen in love, for Olympian reasons, with the minority clause. In fact, the House did not trust itself to do more than give the hysterical round of cheering, as Lord John sat down; no sooner was Labouchere seen on his legs, to do the sympathetic howling over the bier, than members rushed to the door in hundreds: and only a merely decent number were retained,—who had sufficient command over their feelings to be enabled to wait for the possible elegies of Disraeli and Bright. Accordingly, Mr. Disraeli, who, had he risen, as he should have risen immediately after Lord John had fallen back on his bench, would have kept the House, spoke his somewhat clumsy kindness to a dismal three or four dozen of early diners: and Sir John Pakington was critical to about forty—who began to wonder what they were staying for. Sir John was worthy of a larger audience: at least his shrewdness should have been reported, which it wasn't. Sir John has made the most of the session: and his phrase, which acutely sums up a sham, should be endorsed by Lord John on the Reform Bill, when he puts it back into its pigeon hole;—viz., "the Reform Bill which has to be withdrawn is a Reform Bill which should never have been introduced."

Saturday Morning.

A STRANGER.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I am interested in the success of the *Leader*, and have considerable respect for its opinion, but I confess myself altogether unable to understand the drift of the article last week on the "Proposed Nationality League." Am I to understand that the Order of the Lone Star is held up to us as an example? "Cuba," you say, "is about to become a state of the American Union," and through the influence of this Order:—the specific purpose of the Order being "to bring the Lone Star which lies off the mouth of the Mississippi into the galaxy whose ensign is the star-spangled banner." You give this as "a striking example of a successful national movement." Now it appears to me that this "Order" is merely a conspiracy of unscrupulous political jobbers and adventurers to steal what it would be the interest of the Union to possess. You say, "Spain has lost the opportunity which America extended to her of selling the land peaceably, at a profit," and that "it may yet cost blood both to Spain and America; but Cuba will be American." That is, I presume, Spain being weak, and unwilling to sell or part with her property, America is to cut the throats of the Spaniards, and take it by force. This you call "the extension of the Union and its influence," "promoting the principles and institutions of the Union aggressively—by reason and the sword working together." And you recommend a similar league to us! You say, "abroad where we used to conquer and dictate, we now advise and request," "but that rougher times that will try the mettle of Englishmen will revive the life within us, and we may not only form, but be a league to sustain English institutions actively and aggressively." You will excuse me if I am utterly unable to distinguish between this aggressive principle you recommend and the one that distinguished the followers of Mahomet, or that now influences the Russians. The welfare of all the Russians positively requires a sea-board such as Constantinople would give, and the Christians are only taking from the Turks what the Turks stole from them: but America has no such excuse for her contemplated robbery and murder. It appears to me that the object of the proposed Nationality League is just the reverse of what you represent it; expressed by the *Monthly Record* as follows: "England has taken up arms with great reluctance; she cannot, she must not, lay them down, until a series of propositions have been solemnly adopted by all the European powers, as a foundation for all future international transactions, and the first of these should be,—no power shall ever interfere, except by peaceful and friendly advice, with another people's internal concerns; in the event of any power violating this rule, all other powers will interfere in opposition, and re-establish the balance in favour of the attacked nation." By acting on these principles, Poland, Italy, and Hungary, would have been saved;—on yours, the Czar, promoting his principles of absolutism aggressively, has set all Europe in a blaze.

I am, sir,

A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ITALY.

April 11th.

Wednesday, the 26th inst., has been named as the national fast on account of the war; but as the Edinburgh sacramental fast takes place on the following day, Thursday, the 27th, steps have been taken with the view of altering the national fast-day for Scotland to the 27th. Should Government not consent to this, it is most probable that the sacramental fast will be altered to the 26th; and in this event the usual Wednesday markets will be held on Tuesday, the 26th inst.—*Scotsman*.

The Piedmontese Government has just granted a sum of 80,000*fr.* to MM. Sommeiller, Grattoni, and Grandis, for an experiment of the invention of the application of compressed air to locomotion, which will probably be used in the ascent of Mont Cenis and the Col de Tende.—*Paris paper*.

It appears the Czar of Russia is the landlord of certain corn stores and houses in Limerick, which produce a net yearly rental of 400*l.*

Four fatal cases of cholera have occurred at Hoylake, the victims being notorious for their dissipated and dirty habits. Some official gentlemen from Liverpool have visited Hoylake to inquire into the probable causes of the disease.—*Liverpool Times*.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE rarest of all review articles are those which are at once solid, serious and readable. Some writers in their zeal to combine the gay with the grave, set themselves the task of being funny on all matters of grave interest; they think philosophy and science a dose, which can only be taken in a vehicle of bad jokes; they would dish up beef as a trifle, and "go to church in a coranto." This kind of fun *obligato* is simply an impertinence, more intolerable than the most unmitigated prosiness. Such writers have to learn that it is possible to be grave without dullness, and interesting without elaborate jocosity—in short, to be "a great many other things without a great many other things."

An article in the new number of the *Westminster* on the *Results of the Census of 1851* is an example of this rarest kind—the instructive and the readable. It contains a vein of practical wisdom, while its easy, graphic style carries the reader along without effort. A picturesque delineation of what a census *would have* told, or did tell, at different epochs of our history, prepares the way for an account of the method and results of the last census, and gives rise to a frequently striking *rapprochement* of things as they were and things as they are. Any one who cares to read a quarterly review at all will care to read this article. It is followed by one on *Manners and Fashion*, from the pen of an original and independent thinker, who will easily be recognised by the readers of the *Westminster*. A slight straining of theory and analysis, the true defect of a high quality, is apparent here and there; but it is rich in ingenious thought and wholesome truth. Here is a little of the latter:—

"Our social intercourse, as commonly managed, is a mere semblance of the reality sought. What is it that we want? Some sympathetic converse with our fellow-creatures; some converse that shall not be mere dead words, but the vehicle of living thoughts and feelings; converse in which the eyes and the face shall speak, and the tones of the voice be full of meaning; converse which shall make us feel no longer alone, but shall make us one with another, and double our own emotions by adding another's to them. Who is there that has not, from time to time, felt how cold and flat is all this talk about politics and science, and the new books and the new men, and how a genuine outflow of fellow-feeling outweighs the whole of it? Mark the words of Bacon: 'For a crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.' If this be true, then it is only after acquaintance has grown into intimacy, and intimacy has ripened into friendship, that the real communion which men need becomes possible. A rationally-formed circle must consist almost wholly of those on terms of familiarity and regard, with but one or two strangers. What folly, then, underlies the whole system of our grand dinners, our 'at homes,' our evening parties—assemblages consisting of people who never met before, people who just bow to each other, people who though familiar feel mutual indifference, with just a few real friends lost in the general mass. You need but look round at the artificial expressions of face, to see at once how it is. All have their disguises on; and how can there be sympathy between masks? No wonder, then, that in private every one exclaims against the stupidity of these gatherings. No wonder that hostesses get them up rather because they must than because they wish. No wonder that the invited go less from the expectation of pleasure than from fear of giving offence. The whole thing is a gigantic mistake—an organised disappointment."

An article on *Criminal Legislation and Prison Discipline* is an able statement of principles, which must be recognised as sound and momentous, in spite of a disagreement with certain details of application. But the most distinctive feature of the number, from its freshness, and its concurrence with the dominant interest just now, is an account of *Schamyg, the Prophet-Warrior of the Caucasus*. Here we have a picture which recalls that of the early Saracen chiefs drawn by GIBBON, with the advantageous difference that the hero of the Caucasus has patriotic deliverance, and not conquest, for his animating purpose, and that he is a contemporary—actually living in this nineteenth century, which some people spend much mistaken eloquence in pronouncing destitute of enthusiasm and devotion to ideas. A well-merited and cleverly-administered castigation of Lord Campbell as a *Writer of History* is also worth noticing.

The *British Quarterly* has, besides the long and able article on COMTE, which we noticed last week, an interesting article on the *Philosophy of the Senses*, by a writer evidently competent to his subject; though, if we were bent on controversy, we should dissent from him in many points. Here is a passage contrasting cause and effect in one class of sensational impressions:—

"If now, having briefly referred to the structure of the organ, we look to the sensations it transmits in the hope of explaining their secret, the attempt will prove as perplexing as before. Try, for instance, to analyse a sound just before it enters the ear, and then just as it leaves the apparatus for the brain. That the human voice on issuing from the lips produces a series of oscillations in the air is one of the plainest facts we could assert; but if it is considered that these oscillations communicate *thoughts, words, emotions*, the process will assume a magical complexion. The little waves we see produced in a sheet of water when disturbed by a stone, are representative to a certain degree of the motion excited in the air by the impact of the voice. Now, if an observer takes his stand at the margin of a pool, when thus agitated by a succession of blows, can he bring himself to believe that the little billows he sees coursing each other across the surface, really convey watery words? By no stretch of fancy scarcely can he construe them into liquid language. He won't allow that yonder series of waves is an address from one nymph to another; or that those ripples, answered by others from the opposite shore, are the elements of a dialogue now pending between a pair of talkative water sprites. It would require all his credulity to conclude when the surface was perturbed and furrowed by incessant undulations, crossing and intersecting each other in all directions, that these were the materials of a hot debate then in progress amongst the inhabitants of the pool. Yet were it possible for the air in a large hall to be rendered visible, and possible also for us to take a horizontal section of it, when thrown into motion by a grand 'palaver,' it would present a pretty tolerable resemblance to the surface of that pool, making allowance of course for the superior velocity of the aerial waves, and the some, what different direction in which they act. A visitor to the strangers' gallery in the House

of Commons would observe a series of ripples emanating from a particular spot, and spreading onwards until they dashed against the walls of the building. These ripples would say, 'Mr. Speaker,—I rise for the purpose of replying to the arguments of the honourable member who has just resumed his seat. If the views he has expressed are to be adopted by this House, I am firmly convinced that the prosperity of this great country will be completely ebbing, and that the British constitution must be irreparably destroyed.' Whereupon a number of lively little surges would spring up in various parts of the building, some of them signifying 'Hear, hear,' others meaning 'No, no,' and then would arise a dreadful agitation of the atmosphere, the surface of our imaginary section being heaped up into huge turbulent billows consisting of cries of 'Oh, oh!' and loud cheers, and all the other varied utterances of that distinguished assembly when thrown into a state of high patriotic exasperation. "Nor, if we now turn to the auditory nerve, can we discover anything in its action which exhibits the faintest resemblance to the sounds, words, thoughts. It seems almost incredible that a number of slender nervous filaments could be the conductors of a speech by Demosthenes or Edmund Burke. Can we properly conceive of one of Handel's oratorios rushing along a tiny cord like the trunk of the auditory nerve? How does it seem possible that all the rich varieties of tone we hear—all the diversified notes of Nature, from the whisper of the wind to the crash of a thunderbolt—should be conveyed along a chain of bones in the tympanic chamber, and streaming through this solid conduit, should impart their tremors to the feelers of the brain? Full as this world is of the Creator's marvels, there are few more astounding things, when minutely examined, than the performances of the ear. The same fibrils which at one moment will carry the massive harmonies of the 'Hallelujah chorus,' were it hymned by the Angels of the Nativity themselves, will shortly afterwards convey the gentle wail of the parting spirit as it seems to sing the flesh to sleep with the assurance that the Redeemer liveth; and that though worms devour the forsaken dust, yet He shall raise it in honour at the day of His appearing."

The other most important articles in the Review are one on the *Life and Writings of Turgot*, one on the *Census*, as exhibiting the religious aspects of the country, and one on the *Balance of Power*. The number is blemished by an attack on FRANCIS NEWMAN, in which the writer chuckles with amazing complacency over the supposed exasperation and despair of heretics under the tremendous logic of the *Eclipse of Faith*, and assails Professor NEWMAN with an insolent personality which, to those who know how far his character lies above the reach of such feeble missiles, is purely contemptible.

The *British and Foreign Medical Review* contains a concluding article on *Epidemics*, presenting a mass of evidence, both scientific and popular, in favour of the contagion theory—that is, the theory that personal intercourse is the exciting or determining cause of epidemics, and is only assisted by malaria as a predisposing cause. We cite some evidence appreciable by the unscientific:—

"Burt's Close, Grassmarket, Edinburgh, has been already mentioned as one of the worst-drained parts of that poor and dirty district. There were in it, in 1826-28, two lodging-houses, elevated only a few steps above the pavement, both equally dirty and equally crowded, in general, by a succession of the lowest of the people. Into one of these, a wanderer from Glasgow (where fever prevailed at the time) was admitted in the winter 1826-7, who immediately fell ill of the common Continued Fever, and his case was followed by a succession of fourteen more fever cases in that house; the other lodging-house, distant from it only a few paces, remaining free from the disease. In the next winter the case was reversed. A case of fever occurred in the other lodging-house, and was speedily followed by eight more in it; the house first affected, although its inmates had been almost all changed, as well as the other houses in the Close, remaining at this time perfectly free from the disease. Any influence which could have resulted from filth, putrefying matter, crowding, and want of draining, should have acted equally on both houses, and in both winters, and in other houses of the Close; but these facts appeared to us then, and appear still, clearly to indicate, and co-operate with many others in indicating, as the main cause of the extension of that epidemic, intercourse with persons already affected by it; and we are not justified in saying more, as the result of that or other similar observations, as to the influence of any other cause, than that persons living in the vitiated air, or otherwise in the manner of the inhabitants of these lodging-houses, are peculiarly liable, or are predisposed, to suffer from the action of that specific exciting cause."

"Another observation, made in the same Close twenty years later—in 1846-7—appears still more decisive as proof, that it is not mere want of draining, nor mere putrid effluvia, that have made it, on so many occasions, the seat of an epidemic influence. In this season, a succession of nearly twenty cases of fever in Burt's Close again occurred; but on examination it now appeared, that both the tenements which had been affected twenty years previously, and which, although still inhabited, are no longer occupied as lodging-houses, remained free from fever during almost the whole of this epidemic; one of them only being slightly affected towards its end, and the inhabitants believed in consequence of intercourse with the houses now infected. The succession of cases had now taken place on the third and fourth floors of two common stairs, at the entrance of the Close, unaffected on the former occasions, but now used as lodging-houses, and into which, as formerly, some of the wandering Irish from Glasgow had been admitted; the first and second floors even of those stairs remaining unaffected."

"This fact, of the inhabitants of the third and fourth, nay, of the seventh or eighth, floors of a lofty tenement being affected with epidemic disease, while the lower stories of the same tenement, certainly much nearer to any impurities that drains could have removed, remain perfectly free from it—is one which we have witnessed dozens of times in Edinburgh; and this same close furnished another illustration of it during the last epidemic cholera. A number of cases of this epidemic were brought into hospital from this close; but on inquiry it appeared that none of them were from the houses which had formerly furnished the fevers. They were all from the farthest common stair in the close, which is usually inhabited by workmen in regular employment, and their families, and which had remained unaffected during all the epidemic fevers. On this occasion there had been a succession of cases of cholera there, two or three only on the first floor, none on the second or third, which are still inhabited by respectable artisans—all the rest from the highest story of that tenement, now inhabited by the same description of persons, of irregular and filthy habits, as had formerly inhabited the other parts of the close which we have mentioned."

"We think ourselves here justified in asserting, on statistical evidence, that although this is certainly a very low, dirty, and ill-drained close, yet it is not the circumstances of dirt and defective drainage, common to the whole close, and to the last thirty years, but other and more partial circumstances, in the condition of certain small and varying portions of the population there resident, which have rendered them repeatedly the seat of truly epidemic disease; and it will be observed, that in drawing this inference,—as to the intercourse with the sick, as in the inquiries formerly stated as to cholera,—we trust to the positive evidence of successions of cases, as indicating this great external cause, only in so far as they are supported by a great body of negative evidence, excluding other causes; and are therefore unassailable by—as we were, indeed, all along perfectly aware of—the general objection to 'the evidence on which quarantine is based,' stated by the Board of Health."

A writer who evidently delights in wielding the scalpel in more senses than one has chosen the "Vestiges" as a "subject," and dissects it with immense gusto.

HISTORY OF FRENCH PROTESTANT REFUGEES.

History of the French Protestant Refugees, from the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes to the present time. By Charles Weiss. Translated by Frederick Hardman. Price 14s. W. Blackwood and Sons.

A HISTORY of sustained interest, written with the patient zeal of a conscientious historian, and with the perspicuity and elegance of a French historian. M. Weiss has thrown his heart into this labour; and he has not smeared it over with cant. The eloquence is never nasal; the reflections are those of a grave spectator of historical events, addressed to the public, and not to the followers of any sect. Thus the book is what it professes to be, and is not a sermon in disguise, nor a pamphlet with a misnomer. The writer's object has been, first to describe the state of things previous to the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, then to show what that revocation really was; and having brought the narrative down to the great exodus of the Protestants, he describes, in so many books, the establishment of the colonies of French Protestants in Germany, England, Holland, Switzerland, America, and incidentally in Denmark, Sweden, and Russia; notes the edicts promulgated in their favour; examines into the services these refugees furnished to the nations which protected them, services of commerce, literature, and politics; and finally traces the fusion of the refugees with the races among whom they dwelt.

In reading of the struggles of Protestantism we soon become aware of the fact that we are reading something far deeper and more important: it is the struggle of a new birth in the history of the world, the development of a new principle of individual liberty which, beginning with Religion, soon descends to Politics, thence to Industry, and finally to Morals. Read this passage:—

"Chancellor de l'Hôpital under Charles IX., President de Thon under Henry IV., Cardinal Richelieu under Louis XIII., had attached their names to the three edicts promulgated in 1562, 1598, 1629, and which regulated in turn the condition of the Protestants in France; the last, granted to vanquished rebels, received the name of the *Edict of Pardon*. In fact, the government was then strong enough to dare everything: emerged victorious from a formidable crisis it was sustained by the unanimous support of the Catholics; the most moderate, it is true, did not call for further rigorous measures, because they dreaded popular movements and the breaking out of civil war; but if they differed from the more zealous as to the employment of the means, they agreed with them as to the end to be attained. All believed that the first duty of the Most Christian King, the eldest son of the church, was to suppress heresy in his dominions; all regarded the existence of a Protestant party as a permanent danger to the public safety; all considered the unity of the church as a fundamental principle in religion. None, either amongst the Catholics, or amongst the Protestants themselves, had as yet put forward the great principle of religious liberty; no man had as yet uplifted his voice to exempt conscience from the sovereign's domination. Richelieu showed himself, therefore, truly superior to his contemporaries—superior even to the distinguished men who directed the destinies of France during the second half of the seventeenth century—when, after the capture of La Rochelle, he contented himself with overthrowing a political party, whilst he testified the utmost respect for the religious convictions of the vanquished."

"The Edict of Pardon was, for the Protestants, the inauguration of a new era. Deprived of their places of refuge, of their political organisation, gradually excluded from court employments and from almost all civil posts, it was fortunately impossible for them to impoverish themselves by luxury and idleness. Compelled to apply themselves to agriculture, trade, and manufactures, they abundantly compensated themselves for the former restraints. The vast plains they possessed in Béarn and the western provinces were covered with rich harvests. In Languedoc, the cantons peopled by them became the best cultivated and the most fertile, often in spite of the badness of the soil. Thanks to their indefatigable labour, this province, so long devastated by civil war, arose from its ruins. In the mountainous diocese of Alais which includes the lower Cévennes, the chestnut tree furnished the inhabitants with a ready-made bread, which these pious people compared to the manna with which God satisfied the Israelites in the desert. The Aigoual and the Espérou, the most elevated of that chain of mountains, were covered with forests and pastures, in which their flocks grazed. On the Espérou was remarked a plain enamelled with flowers, and abounding in springs of water, which maintained a fresh vegetation during the summer's most ardent heat. The inhabitants called it the Hort-Dion, that is to say the Garden of God. That part of the Vivarais designated Montagne produced corn in such great abundance that it exceeded the wants of the consumers. The diocese of Uzès also yielded corn in abundance, and exquisite oil and wine. In the diocese of Nismes, the valley of Vauvange was celebrated for the richness of its vegetation. The Protestants, who possessed within its limits more than sixty temples, called it Little Canaan. The skilful vine-dressers of Berri restored its former prosperity to that district. Those of the Pays Messin became the élite of the population of more than twenty-five villages; the gardeners of the same province brought their art to a degree of perfection previously unknown."

"The Protestants who dwelt in towns devoted themselves to manufactures and trade and displayed an activity, an intelligence, and at the same time an integrity, which perhaps have never been surpassed in any country. In Guienne, they took possession of almost the whole of the wine-trade; in the two governments of Brouage and Oleron, a dozen Protestant families had the monopoly of the trade in salt and wine, which annually amounted to from 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 livres. At Sancerre, by their persevering industry, and by the spirit of order that animated them, the Protestants became, as was admitted by the intendant, superior to the Catholics in numbers, wealth, and consideration. In the *Généralité* of Alençon, almost all the trade passed through the hands of about four thousand Protestants. Those of Rouen attracted to their town a host of wealthy foreigners, especially Dutch, to the great benefit of the country. Those of Caen resold to English and Dutch merchants the linen and woollen cloths manufactured at Vire, Falaise, and Argentan, thus insuring a rich market to that branch of national manufactures. The important trade that Metz maintained with Germany was almost entirely in the hands of the Huguenots of that department. Accordingly, its governor subsequently recommended, although in vain, to the Ministers of Louis XIV., to show them particular attention, much gentleness, and patience, inasmuch, he said, as they hold the trade in their hands, and are the richest of the people. The merchants of Nismes, renowned throughout the south of France, afforded means of subsistence to an infinity of families. 'If the Nismes merchants,' wrote Bâville (the intendant of the province) in 1699, 'are still bad Catholics, at any rate they have not ceased to be good traders.' Elsewhere, in his remarkable report, he said: 'Generally speaking, all the new converts are more at their ease, more laborious and more industrious, than the old Catholics of the province.'"

"It was also to the Protestants that France owed the rapid development of its maritime trade at Bordeaux, La Rochelle, and the Norman ports. The English and Dutch had more confidence in them than in the Catholic merchants, and were more willing to open correspondence with them. And the French Protestants deserved their high reputation for commercial probity. Lost in a manner, amongst a people who regarded them with distrust, unceasingly exposed to calumny, subjected to severe laws, which imperiously compelled them to perpetual self-watchfulness, they commanded public esteem by the austerity of their morals, and by their irreproachable integrity."

The Protestants were no less in high repute for their intelligence and commercial activity than for their manufactures, and it is worth noting, by-the-way, that the Protestant workman had one essentially industrial superiority over the Catholic in the fewer days lost:—

"It must be added that the working year of the Protestants consisted of 310 days because they dedicated to repose only the fifty-two Sundays and a few solemn festivals, which gave to their industry the superiority of one-sixth over that of the Catholics, whose working year was but of 260 days, because they devoted more than 105 to repose."

As in looking over the world we find the Protestant nations distinguished for their industrial superiority; so, also, in looking over France, it is the Protestant towns which are the most industrial:—

"In the provinces of Picardy, Champagne, Normandy, the Isle of France, in Touraine, the Lyonnais, and Languedoc, it was they who created the most important manufactures; and this was made evident by the rapid decline of those manufactures after the revocation of Henry IV.'s edict."

The revocation of the Edict of Nantes scattered all the Protestant energy and skill; but if France suffered, Europe prospered thereby. France carried her arts and her skill into England, Germany, Holland, America, and helped these countries in their industrial and political development, as M. Weiss luminously explains; a single passage relative to England will suggest to the reader's mind the importance of the aid:—

"It appears certain that the revocation of the edict of Nantes sent into the three kingdoms about 70,000 manufacturers and workmen, most of whom proceeded from Normandy, Picardy, the maritime provinces of the West, the Lyonnais, and Touraine. A great number settled in London, in the districts of Soho and St. Giles, then suburbs, and in lonely Spitalfields, which they entirely peopled, and which their descendants still inhabit."

"The English were indebted to them for the introduction of several new manufactures, which soon contributed to the public wealth, and for the improvement of others still in their infancy. Before that period the paper made in England was of common description and greyish colour; and the better qualities of glass-ware, hats, and a number of other articles of everyday consumption, were imported from the Continent, and especially from France. The refugees taught the English to manufacture these superior qualities for themselves, and, moreover, showed them how to produce silks, brocades, satins, velvets, light tissues of linen and wool, clocks and watches, glass-ware, cutlery, hardware, French locks, surgical instruments. The Bill of Rights which, in 1689, consecrated the liberties of the people, and guaranteed individual property, further added to the happy influence exercised by the Refuge, by giving the signal for an immense development of English manufactures, commerce, and navigation."

"Of all the manufactures with which the refugees endowed this kingdom, not one acquired a more magnificent development than that of silks. First, in the quarter of Blackfriars, at Canterbury, skilful workmen from Tours and Lyons established themselves. In 1694 their numbers had so greatly increased that they possessed 1000 looms, giving work to 2700 persons; but the majority finally settled in London, in the district of Spitalfields. Thence they propagated their manufacture to Dublin, where it assumed an unexpected importance. England and Ireland then presented the memorable sight of a manufacture borrowed from the foreigner, consuming foreign materials, and which nevertheless, succeeded in equalling, and even in surpassing, the products of those countries where it had long been cultivated."

"The French artisans took into England models of looms similar to those of Tours and Lyons. They taught the English improved modes of weaving, and showed them how to make brocades, satins, very strong silks known as paduasoes, watered silks, black velvets, fancy velvets, stuffs of mingled silk and cotton. The figured silks which proceeded from the London manufacturers at the end of the seventeenth century, were due almost exclusively to the industry of three refugees—Lanson, Marisot, and Monceaux. The artist who supplied the designs was also a refugee, named Beaudoin. A common workman, named Monseigneur, took them the secret, recently discovered at Lyons, of giving lustre to silk taffety. Barillon, the French ambassador (in pursuance of the express orders of Louis XIV., transmitted by Louvois), made him brilliant offers to return to France. It was too late. This secret, which Octavio Mai had found by a lucky chance, which had re-established the impaired fortune of that manufacturer, and had since become a source of wealth to the whole of the Lyons manufacturers was thenceforward divulged."

And here is a detail which will be new to most readers:—

"THE CHURCHES LONDON OWES TO THE FRENCH."

"At that time the old temple in Threadneedle-street, and those of the Savoy, Marylebone, and Castle-street, were insufficient to contain the daily increasing throng of the faithful. The consistory applied to James II., who permitted the construction of a new church in Spitalfields. It was the temple of the Hospital, which opened in 1688, and which subsequently was called the New Church, after it had been repaired in 1743. To these first five churches, appropriated to the Protestants of France, twenty-six others were successively added, almost all founded during the reigns of William III., of Queen Anne, and of George I."

"That of Leicester-fields, founded in 1688, and which for some time had Saurin for its minister; that of Spring-gardens, whose first pastor was Francis Flahaut; that of Glass-house-square, in the neighbourhood of Golden-square, which was formed in 1688; that of Swallow-street, in Piccadilly, erected in 1692; that of Berwick-street, in 1699; that of Charenton, in Newport Market, in 1701; that of the West-street in the Seven Dials, which the refugees called the Pyramid, or the *Tremblade*; that called the *Carre*, in the district of Westminster, in 1689; that of the Tabernacle, in 1696; that of Hungerford, founded in 1689, and which subsisted until 1832; the Temple of Soho, or the patent, erected in 1689; that of Ryder's-court, in 1700; that of Martin's-lane, in the City, in 1686; that of St. James, in 1701; that of the Artillery, in the Bishopsgate district, in 1691; that of Hoxton, in 1748; that of St. John, in Shoreditch district, in 1687; the Patent, in Spitalfields, or the New Patent, in 1689; that of Crispin-street, in 1693; that of Pearl-street, in 1697; that of Bell-lane, in Spitalfields, in 1718; that of Swanfields, in 1721; that of Wheeler-street, in Spitalfields, in 1703; that of Petticoat-lane, in Spitalfields, in 1694; that of Wapping in 1711; that of Blackfriars, in 1716. Several of these churches ultimately adopted the Anglican ritual. The others, such as the Artillery, the Patent in Spitalfields, St. John, Wheeler-street, Crispin-street, Seven Dials, preserved the reformed liturgy, without on that account discontinuing their fraternal intercourse with the pastors of the conformist churches."

We must trespass on our space, brief though it be, for a second article on this important work next week.

THE HOMES OF THE WRETCHED.

London Shadows; a Glance at the "Homes" of the Thousands. By George Godwin, F.R.S. Editor of the Builder. With numerous Illustrations. By John Brown.

Routledge and Son.

WHEN the poet sang "be it never so humble there is no place like home," he had no conception of the "homes" of the thousands in a great metropolis. Mr. George Godwin has undertaken, in the way of severe and painful duty, to examine and describe these homes. He has produced an appalling book. Abstaining everywhere from rhetoric—from every exclamation that might sneeringly be termed "sentimentalism"—from every reflection that might seem "to denote a forgone conclusion," he has confined himself to the simple office of reporting what he saw, and it is his "plata unvarnished tale" which is so appalling. The descriptions are rendered precise as well as vivid by a quantity of woodcut illustrations; although it must be said that it is the very nature of woodcut illustrations to soften the misery of such scenes, they cannot give the squalor, and dirt, and gloom, and fetid atmosphere which make up the real terror of these homes.

To glance at a single detail, what must be the state of things which can welcome a calamity as in the following extract?

"In a previous chapter we mentioned the condition of the 'Coal-yard,' at the top of Drury-lane,—a spot near which the Great Plague of 1665 first made its appearance. At a recent visit the place seemed even worse than formerly. At one end of these dwellings is a building occupied by the parish poor, and here a fire-engine is kept. At the time of our

visit, about eight o'clock on one Saturday evening, the people opposite this place complained of their neglected condition and inadequate supply of water. They had then none in their tank. Suddenly a cry of fire was raised, and the engine was brought forth for use. "Thank God," said one of the women, "there is a fire; we will soon get some water." Presently the water ran into the empty cask, the turncock not being able to prevent it from coming into the houses at the time he supplied the engines. Surely they must be ill supplied with water—one of the greatest necessities of life—when they "thank God for a fire."

Mr. Godwin very ably presents the danger which the new "Lodging-House Act" brings with it:

"Dirty, dilapidated, and unwholesome dwellings destroy orderly and decent habits, degrade the character, and conduce to immorality. Bad air produces feelings of exhaustion and lowness of spirits, and these tempt to the use of stimulants—the fruitful parents of all crime. We have urged and re-urged this in many shapes: but repetition is necessary, improvement moves so slowly. The 'New Lodging-house Act' is being pushed gradually, yet firmly into use, and is, without doubt, effecting much good. 'The sanitary policemen,' as the Earl of Shaftesbury said on a recent occasion, 'are looked upon by the poor as guardian angels.' Admitting the general good of this measure, there is, nevertheless, one consideration which requires careful and immediate attention. While the new Act of Parliament is driving the poor from their close quarters, we say now, as we have said before, no adequate provision has been made for their reception elsewhere, and the consequence must be that rent for dwellings will be raised beyond the means of the destitute poor, particularly those with families of children, and they will simply remove the overcrowding to places not at present discovered by the police, or be compelled to seek shelter in the workhouses."

And elsewhere:

"In all directions the dwellings of the worst sort are being swept away; within the last few years, hundreds of houses have been demolished in the City Liberties, in Marylebone, St. Clement's Danes, and other parishes too numerous to mention. Persons congratulate themselves on the removal of 'rookeries,' and look with complacency at the noble warehouses and streets which rise to occupy the sites of the wretched hovels. But what has been done in this great metropolis to provide for the living creatures who, by the improvements, have had their hearths destroyed? Literally nothing. A short time ago we witnessed the ejection, from Orchard-place, Portman-square, of nearly 1500, men, women, and children: the place was in a bad condition, and fever was a constant visitor; yet the people were sorry to leave the place, knowing the difficulty of obtaining, with their limited means, a better lodging, or even any lodging at all. Single men could manage well enough, but it was distressing to see the wretched furniture, if so it could be called, and families in the muddy street on a rainy day, the parents hunting in all directions to obtain shelter. These poor people would go, as a matter of course, to the already thickly-crowded parts of Marylebone, St. Pancras, Clerkenwell, &c., for no provision had been made for them of an improved kind. 'We must try our relations, for my husband cannot get a lodging,' said a woman, sitting in the rain, with her children, and some household goods which would not be to a broker worth half-a-crown; 'surely they must take in their own flesh and blood.' Poor things!"

Not only for the sake of the poor is it necessary that the rich should attend to this question, but also for their own sake, since these "homes" are centres of disease, and, as Mr. Godwin says,

"It has been shown that the cholera can be battled with by sanitary measures, and that fever in the same way can be abated. The model lodging-house in Charles-street, Drury-lane, is a striking example of the advantages and effects of proper means in one of the worst neighbourhoods. This house has now been open about eight years, and is occupied by from seventy to eighty lodgers daily; and yet during that period, although cholera and fever have killed numbers on all sides, there has not been a single case of either in it. A good supply of water, proper drainage, and ventilation, have stopped disease; and it is not a little gratifying to find that the example of this building, in such a place, has not been without its effect on the landlords of the adjoining houses."

THREE NOVELS.

Agnes Valmar. A Novel, in 3 vols.

The Heiress of Somerton. In 3 vols.

Flora Lindsay; or, Passages in an Eventful Life. By Mrs. Moodie, author of "Roughing it in the Bush." In 2 vols.

Chapman and Hall.

Bentley.

Bentley.

ALTHOUGH it is quite true that the lady-novelists are, if not the best, among the best, it is equally true that the female pen is capable of writing a very bad novel, when wilful women set their wits that way. Did we not know, all of us, with what glib pertinacity women will talk for hours on nothing (a faculty also largely possessed by men), we might wonder what could induce them to write three long volumes, having nothing to say, having no experience to communicate, and having no more "story" than Canning's knife-grinder. But, as we often say, literature for the most part is but Printed Talk, and we must accept three volumes as a morning visit, or, at any rate, as one of those threatened "long days and bring my work" which every husband and father, shuddering, knows.

Here are three ladies who have "brought their work." *Agnes Valmar* makes a very lengthy visit. Love speeches of five pages long (which by a "special mercy of Providence" can be skipped), ups and downs of fortune, which we are by no means called upon to believe in; motives about as valid as those so prodigally attributed by any imaginative female in the course of a long day with the work; misunderstandings which only exist in order that three volumes may exist; impossible heroes, impossible heroines, and vanishing nobodies, whose names we forget the next day—these form the staple of *Agnes Valmar's* conversation. It is not an impassioned morning we pass with her; not a memorable morning; but we have passed worse, and listened to conversation in every way less agreeable.

The Heiress of Somerton also puts her feet upon the footstool, and draws the sofa nearer the fire to tell us her story. She is very young—has had little experience; she talks "an infinite deal of nothing," but she talks it well; she talks of nature, of love (of course), and very glibly of "Church;" she has her "views," and dislikes the Puseyites; but she has a pretty tongue—sometimes a musical tongue; and we listen to her on the whole as agreeably pleased as it is possible for one who has heard it all a thousand times, to hear it once again.

Flora Lindsay has only come for half the day—she comes in two volumes; but we found her half longer than the *Heiress of Somerton's* whole day. *Flora Lindsay* has some experience, but she has not the grace of youth to make that experience charming. There is an attempt to sketch character "after life," but the result is a long way after life. The talk is flaccid and common-place; the story very tiresome; and to confess the truth, before the half day is over, we find that we have forgotten some engagement, and snatching up our hat and gloves, hurry out of reach of the rest of these eventful passages. It is no doubt very "improper" of a critic not to read to the end; but we would rather be guilty of the impropriety than tread in the paths of virtue and propriety, when those paths lead to the end.

Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—GÖTHE.

THE MAYTHORNE PAPERS.

No. VIII.

PERSONAL BEAUTY.

It is a commonly expressed opinion that beauty of character and beauty of aspect are unrelated. I have never been able to reconcile myself to this opinion. Indeed, even those who hold it do so in a very incomplete sense; for it is observable that notwithstanding their theory they continue to manifest surprise when they find a mean deed committed by one of noble countenance—a fact clearly implying that underneath their professed induction lies a still living conviction to the contrary.

Whence this conviction? How is it that a belief in the connexion between worth and beauty primarily exists in all? It cannot be innate. Must it not, then, be from early experiences? and must it not be that in those who continue to believe in this connexion, spite of their reasonings, the early and wide experiences outweigh the later and exceptional ones?

Avoiding, however, the metaphysics of the question, let us consider it physiologically.

Those who do not admit the relationship between mental and facial beauty, usually remark that the true connexion is between character and expression. Whilst they doubt, or rather deny, that the permanent forms of the features are in any way indices of the forms of the mind, they assert that the transitory forms of the features are such indices. These positions are inconsistent. For is it not hourly seen that the transitory forms are by perpetual repetition registering themselves on the face, and producing permanent forms? Does not an habitual frown by-and-by leave ineffaceable marks on the brow? Is not a chronic scornfulness presently followed by a modified set in the angles of the mouth? Does not that compression of the lips significant of great determination, often stereotype itself; and so give a changed form to the lower part of the face? And if there be any truth in the doctrine of hereditary transmission, must there not be a tendency to the re-appearance of these modifications as new types of feature in the offspring? In brief, we may say that expression is feature in the making; and that if expression means something, the form of feature produced by it means something.

Possibly it will be urged, in reply, that changes of expression affect only the muscles and skin of the face; that the permanent marks they produce can extend but to these; that, nevertheless, the beauty of a face is mainly dependent upon the forms of its bony framework; that hence, in this chief respect, there cannot take place such modifications as those described; and that, therefore, the relationship of aspect to character, whilst it may hold in the details, does not hold in the generals.

The rejoinder is that the framework of the face is modified by modifications in the tissues which cover it. It is an established doctrine in physiology, that throughout the skeleton the greater or less development of bones is dependent on the greater or less development, that is on the exercise, of the attached muscles. Hence permanent changes in the muscular adjustments of the face will be followed by permanent changes in its osseous structure.

Not to dwell in general statements, however, which with most weight but little, I will instance a few of the leading directions in which the connexion between organic ugliness and mental inferiority, and the converse connexion between organic beauty and comparative perfection of mind, are distinctly traceable.

It will be admitted that the projecting jaw, characteristic of negroes and, indeed, of all the lower human races, is a defect in a face—is a trait which no sculptor would give to an ideal bust. At the same time it is an ascertained fact that prominence of jaw is associated in the mammalia generally with comparative lack of intelligence. This relationship, it is true, does not hold good uniformly. It is not a direct but an indirect one; and is thus liable to be disturbed. Nevertheless, it holds good amongst all the higher tribes; and on inquiry we shall see why it must hold good. In conformity with the great physiological law that organs develop in proportion as they are exercised, the jaws must be relatively large where the demands made upon them are great, and will diminish in size as their functions become less numerous and less onerous. Now, in all the lower classes of animals the jaws are the sole organs of manipulation—are used not only for mastication, but for seizing, carrying, gnawing, and, indeed, for everything save locomotion, which is the solitary office performed by the limbs. Advancing upwards, we find that the limbs, and more particularly the forelimbs, begin to aid the jaws and gradually to relieve them of part of their duties. Some creatures use them for burrowing; some, as the felines, for striking; many, to keep steady the prey they are tearing; and when we arrive at the quadrumania, in whom the forelimbs possess so complete a power of prehension that objects can not only be seized, but carried and pulled to pieces by them, we find that the jaws are used for little else than to break down the food. Accompanying this series of changes, we see a double change in the form of the head. The increased complexity of the limbs, the greater variety of actions they perform, and the more numerous perceptions they give, are necessarily associated with a greater development of the brain and of its bony envelope. At the same time, the size of the jaws has diminished in correspondence with the diminution of their functions. And by this simultaneous protrusion of the upper part of the cranium and recession of its lower part, what is called the facial angle has increased.

Well, these co-ordinate changes in functions and forms have continued during the civilisation of the human race. On contrasting the European and the Papuan, we see that what one cuts in two with knife and fork, the other tears with his jaws; what the one softens by cooking, the other eats in its hard, raw state; the bones which the one utilises by stewing, the other gnaws; and for sundry of the mechanical manipulations, which the one has tools for, the other uses his teeth. From the Bushman state upwards there

has been a gradual increase in the complexity of our appliances. We not only use our hands to save our jaws, but we make implements to save our hands; and in our engine factories may be found implements for the making of implements. This progression in the arts of life has had intellectual progression for its necessary correlative. Each new complication required a new increment of intelligence for its production; and the daily use of it develops the intelligence of all still further. Thus that simultaneous protrusion of the brain and recession of the jaws, which amongst lower animals has accompanied increase of skill and sagacity, has continued during the advance of Humanity from barbarism to civilisation; and has been throughout the result of a discipline involving increase of mental power. And so it becomes manifest that there exists a necessary relationship between that protuberance of jaws, which we consider ugly, and a certain inferiority of nature.

Again, that lateral jutting out of the cheek-bones, which similarly characterises the lower races of men, and which is similarly thought by us a detractor from beauty, is similarly related to lower habits and lower intelligence. The jaws are closed by the temporal muscles; and these are consequently the chief active agents in biting and mastication. In proportion as the jaws have much work, and correspondingly large size, must the temporal muscles be massive. But the temporal muscles pass between the skull and the zygomatic arches, or lateral parts of the cheek-bones. Consequently, where the temporal muscles are massive, the spaces between the zygomatic arches and the skull must be great; and the lateral projection of the zygomatic arches great also, as we see it in the Mongolian and other uncivilised tribes. Like large jaws, therefore, of which it is a necessary accompaniment, excessive size of the cheek-bones is both an ugliness and an index of undeveloped intellect.

Certain other defects of feature, between which and mental defects it is not thus easy to trace the connexion, may yet be fairly presumed to have such connexion in virtue of their constant co-existence with the foregoing ones; alike in the uncivilised races and in the young of the civilised races. Peculiarities of face, which we find regularly associated with those just shown to be significant of intellectual inferiority—which, like them, we find associated with intellectual inferiority both in adult savages and in infant Europeans, and which like them disappear as barbarism grows into civilisation and childhood into manhood—may reasonably be concluded to have like them a psychological meaning; and, when seen in adults of our own race, may fairly be considered as arrests of facial development, implying corresponding arrests of nervous or mental development. Thus it is with depression of the bridge of the nose; which is a characteristic both of barbarians and of our babes, possessed by them in common with the higher quadrumana. Thus, also, is it with that forward opening of the nostrils, which renders them conspicuous in a front view of the face—a trait alike of infants, savages, and apes. And the same may be said of wide-spread alae to the nose, of great width between the eyes, of long mouth, of large mouth,—indeed of all those leading peculiarities of feature which are by general consent called ugly.

Then mark how, conversely, the type of face, usually admitted to be the most beautiful, is one that is not simply free from these peculiarities, but possesses opposite ones. In the ideal Greek head the forehead projects, and the jaws recede, to such an extent as to render the facial angle larger than we ever find it in fact. The cheek-bones are so small as scarcely to be traceable. The bridge of the nose is so high as to be almost or quite in a line with the forehead. The alae of the nose join the face with but little obliquity. In the front view the nostrils are almost invisible. The mouth is small, and the upper lip short and deeply concave. The outer angles of the eyes, instead of keeping the horizontal line, as is usual, or being directed upwards, as in the Mongolian type, are directed slightly downwards. And the form of the brow indicates an unusually large frontal sinus—a characteristic entirely absent in children, in the lowest of the human races, and in the allied genera.

If, then, recession of the forehead, protuberance of the jaws, and largeness of the cheek-bones, three leading elements of ugliness, are demonstrably indicative of mental inferiority—if such other facial defects as great width between the eyes, flatness of the nose, spreading of its alae, forward opening of the nostrils, length of the mouth, and largeness of the lips, are habitually associated with these, and disappear along with them as intelligence

increases, both in the race and in the individual—is it not a fair inference that all such faulty trials of feature signify deficiencies of mind? If, further, our ideal of human beauty is characterised not simply by the absence of these traits, but by the presence of opposite ones—if this ideal, as found in sculptures of the Greek gods, has been used to represent superhuman power and intelligence—and if the race so using it were themselves distinguished by a mental superiority, which, if we consider their disadvantages, produced results unparalleled—have we not yet stronger reasons for concluding that the chief components of beauty and ugliness are severally connected with perfection and imperfection of mental nature? And when, lastly, we remember that the variations of feature constituting expression are confessedly significant of character—when we remember that these tend by repetition to organise themselves, to affect not only the skin and muscles, but the bones of the face, and to be transmitted to offspring—when we thus find that there is a psychological meaning alike in each passing adjustment of the features, in the marks that habitual adjustment leave, in the marks inherited from ancestors, and in those main outlines of the facial bones and integuments indicating the type of race—are we not almost forced to the conclusion that all forms of feature are related to forms of mind, and that we consider them admirable or otherwise according as the traits of nature they imply are admirable or otherwise? In the extremes the relationship is demonstrable. That transitory aspects of face accompany transitory mental states, and that we consider these aspects ugly or beautiful, as the mental states they accompany are ugly or beautiful, no one doubts. That those permanent and most marked aspects of face, dependent on the bony framework, accompany those permanent and most marked mental states which express themselves in barbarism and civilisation, and that we consider as beautiful those which accompany mental superiority, and as ugly those which accompany mental inferiority, is equally certain. And if this connexion unquestionably holds in the extremes—if, as judged by average facts, and by our half-instinctive convictions, it also holds more or less visibly in intermediate cases—it becomes an almost irresistible induction, that the aspects which please us are the outward correlatives of inward perfections, and the aspects which displease us the outward correlatives of inward imperfections.

I am quite aware that when tested in detail this induction seems not to be borne out—that experience daily thrusts upon our notice hosts of anomalies. I know that there are often grand natures behind plain faces; and that fine countenances frequently hide small souls. But these anomalies do not destroy the general truth of the law, any more than the perturbations of planets destroy the general ellipticity of their orbits. Some of them, indeed, may be readily accounted for. There are many faces spoiled by having one part perfectly developed whilst the rest of the features are ordinary; others by the misproportion or ill-arrangement of features that are in themselves good; others, again, by defects of skin, which, though they indicate defects of visceral constitution, have manifestly no relationship to the higher parts of the nature. Moreover, the facts that have been assigned afford some reason for thinking that many of the leading elements of facial beauty are not directly associated with moral characteristics, but with intellectual ones—are simply the results of long-continued civilised habits, of long cessation of domestic barbarism, of long culture of the manipulative powers, and so may co-exist with emotional attributes not at all admirable. It is true that the highest order of intellectual manifestations need a good balance of the higher feelings for their basis; but it is also true that great quickness, great sagacity in ordinary affairs, great practical skill can be possessed without these, and very frequently are so. The very prevalent beauty of the Italians, co-existing though it does with a low moral state, becomes, on this hypothesis, reconcilable with the general induction, as may also many of the anomalies we have daily around us.

There is, however, a much more satisfactory explanation to be offered than any of these—an explanation which I think renders it quite possible to admit all the seeming confusion and contradictions which the detailed facts present, and yet to hold by the theory. But as more space will be required for showing this than can here be spared, I must defer going further until next week. In the meantime, the strength of my own conviction may be expressed in the formula which I have long used to embody my belief on the matter.—The saying that beauty is but skin-deep is but a skin-deep saying.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

GRIFFIN—April 9, the wife of George T. Griffin, Esq., Ninety-seventh Regiment: a daughter.
MONTGOMERY—April 8, at Grey Abbey, the Lady Charlotte Montgomery: a daughter.
VIVIAN—April 7, at Glynn, the Lady Vivian: a son.

MARRIAGES.

GIBBON—HOOD—April 8, at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Henry Gibbon, Esq., of Great James-street, Bedford-row, to Mary, second daughter of Robert Jacob Hood, Esq., of Barton Park, Leicestershire.

ORD—SMYLY—April 6, at Inverness, Alfred Robert, fourth son of the late Colonel Harry Gough Ord, R.A., of Beley, Kent, to Belissa Jane, third daughter of the late Reverend W. Smyly, and granddaughter of J. C. Beresford, Esq.

HANSLEY—LAURIE—April 8, at St. Mark's, Kennington, Thomas Hansley, Esq., son of the late Colonel Hansley, of Norman-cross, Hunts, Sixty-sixth Regiment, to Charlotte Anne, second daughter of the late John Laurie, Esq., of Hadley, Middlesex.

DEATHS.

BRAND—March 11, at the residence of her aunt, West-hall, Shetland, Cecy Ann, eldest daughter of Commander W. H. Brand, R.N., Leigh, Essex, aged twenty.
COX—March 11, at Kinsey, Canada, Harriet, second daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel William Cox, of the Royal Artillery.

KNOWLES—April 4, at Montpellier, France, Georgina Henrietta Knowles, second daughter of the late Admiral Sir Charles Henry Knowles, Bart., G.C.B., and sister of the present baronet.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday Evening, April 13, 1854.
SINCE last week, when the reaction upwards became more marked, we have had Consols as high as 89 80½. This was

on Monday. The rumour of Bunsen's recall, and the vacillating conduct of the Prussian Government, soon sent them down again, and they have been creeping downwards since that day, with occasional revivals, consequent on the thousand and one rumours which pervade the City generally and the Stock Exchange in particular. Money is said to be easier; but the necessary expenditure and waste in such a war as we are now embarked in must cause a deficiency throughout Europe; therefore the temporary easiness talked of can hardly last long. Of course any reverse in the Baltic, or a decided victory on the part of the Russians in the East over the Turks, before the allied forces can be concentrated and brought into line, will have its effect upon the market. The near approach of the settlement of the monthly Account, which, with heavy "Bears" in the field, has always the effect of temporarily keeping up things beyond their real value, may account for the comparative buoyancy of the market. This afternoon there have been more heavy sales, and Consols close 87½ for money, and 87½ for account. Foreign stocks have been about the same—Russians declining a little. Mercantile firms. The Share Market has been quiet, following Consols to a certain extent. Mines rather flat. Peninsulas and Friars have had some heavy fluctuations, as much as 1 per cent., but stand now at better prices. The fact of the rise in our funds not affecting the Paris Bourse to the usual extent, has led many speculators to believe that some news of a depressing nature is known in Paris, and withheld by the Government from the public.

This next week being Easter holidays, will take many people out of town; and unless some important news should arrive, we shall see no great change either way.

Consols, 87½, 87½; Caledonian, 52½, 53; Eastern Counties, 12, 12½; Great Western, 72½, 72½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 60½, 60½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 97½, 98½; London and North Western, 93½, 93½; London and South Western, 76, 77; Midland, 58, 58½; Newport, Abergeenny, and Hereford, 7, 7½; North Staffordshire, 64, 64½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 28, 30; Scottish Central, 82, 84; South Eastern, 54½, 54½; South Wales, 32½, 33; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 64½, 65; York and

North Midland, 45, 45; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 4, 4½ d. x. in.; East Indian, 11, 11 pm.; Luxembourg, 41, 41; Ditto (Railway), 24, 24; Ditto, Pref., 11; Madras, 11, 11 d.; Namur and Liege (with Int.), 61, 61; Northern of France, 28½, 29; Paris and Lyons, 11, 11½ pm.; Paris and Orleans, 41, 41 x. d.; Paris and Rouen, 32, 34; Paris and Strasbourg, 29½, 29; Sambre and Meuse, 71, 71; West Flanders, 3, 4; Western of France, 11, 24 pm. x. d.; Agua Frias, 11, 21; Brazilian Imperial, 31, 31; St. John del Rey, 29, 31; Colonial Gold, par. 1 pm.; Great Nugget, 4 dis., par.; Linars, 10, 11, x. d.; New ditto, 4 dis., par.; Nouveau Monde, par. 1; Quartz Rock, 4 pm.; United Mexican, 3, 3½; Waller, 1; Falmouth, 5-16, 1-16 pm.; Australasian Bank, 75, 74; Oriental Bank, 48, 49; South Australia Bank, 36, 38; Union of Australia, 64, 60; Australian Agricultural, 364, 374; Crystal Palace, 11, 11 pm.; North British Australian Loan and Land, 4 dis., par.; Scottish Australian Investment, 24, 24 x. d.; South Australian Land, 34, 36; Peninsular, 1, 1.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Thursday Evening, April 13.

LOCAL TRADE.—The arrivals of English and foreign Grain during the week have been moderate. On Monday there was a better sale for Wheat than last week, at a decline of 2s. to 3s. per quarter from that day week, and yesterday the trade was firm, and a fair business doing at Monday's rates. Notwithstanding short supplies of Oats, Monday's prices were barely maintained yesterday. Barley met a slow sale without alteration in value.

FREE ON BOARD.—There has been but little passing since last week in this branch of the trade. A considerable number of vessels have passed the Sound onwards to the Prussian ports to load with grain.

FLOATING TRADE.—There are very few cargoes arrived off the coast, and for these full rates are asked; but little business has been done either in these or in cargoes on passage.

The French markets are quiet. At Marseilles the demand for Italy continues.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.
(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	214½	215	214	215	216½	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	86½	86½	86½	87½	87½	.....
3 per Cent. Con. An.	87-8	89½	87½	88½	87½	.....
Consols for Account	87½	88½	87½	88½	87½	.....
4½ per Cent. An.	87½	88½	87½	88½	87½	.....
New 5 per Cent.	.....	.....	.....	115	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1880.	4½	3 d	.....	416	.....	.....
India Stock	.....	23½	.....	23½	.....	.....
India Bonds, £1000	.....	3 d	4 d	2 d	.....	.....
India, under £1000	2 p	2 p	2 p	.....	4 d	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000	6 p	4 p	2 p	4 p	5 p	.....
India, £500	6 p	4 p	2 p	5 p	4 p	.....
India, Small	6 p	6 p	2 p	5 p	4 p	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	92½	Russian Bonds, 5 per	92
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	54	Cents 1822	90
Chilian 6 per Cents.	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.	82
Danish 6 per Cents.	.....	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 17½	.....
Ecuador Bonds	.....	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Mexican 5 per Cents.	.....	of Coup. not fur.	87
Mexican 3 per Ct. for	.....	Venezuela 2½ per Cents.	22½
Acc. April 28	24½	Belgian 4 per Cents.	.....
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	35	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	50½
Portuguese 3 p. Cents.	34	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	84½

THE ROYAL OPERA—DRURY-LANE.

THE Directors have the honour to announce that THE SEASON will commence on Monday next—EASTER MONDAY—April 17, when Her Majesty's servants will perform Bellini's opera of NORMA. Norma, Madame Carandini; Clotilde, Madame Sondheim; and Adelphi, Madame Sedlak; Pollio, Signor Pavesi (from La Scala, Milan); Flavius, Signor Santi; and Oroveso, Signor Arnoldi (Primo Basso of the Grand Opera and Italian Opera of Paris). After the opera, "God Save the Queen" by the entire company. To conclude with a BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT.

Prices: Galleries, 2s.; 1st, 2s.; Boxes, 3s.; Dress Circle, 4s.; Stalls, 7s.; Private Boxes, 21s., 42s., and 68s.—May be had, and places taken, at the Box-office, which is open daily from 9 till 6, and of the principal Music-sellers and Librarians.—Doors will be opened a Quarter before Seven, and performance commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

The Subscription will be for One Hundred Nights, and will commence on Monday, April 24.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

On Monday, April 17th, and during the Week, will be presented

THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE.

Principal Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Leslie, Vincent, White, Miss P. Horton, Mrs. Chatterley, and Miss Marston.

After which,

TO OBLIGE BENSON.

Characters by Messrs. Emery, F. Robson, Leslie, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Wyndham.

To conclude with

THE WANDERING MINSTREL.

Jem Bags.....Mr. F. Robson.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT

BLANC will RE-OPEN on Easter Monday, at 8 o'clock, and will in future take place every evening (except Saturdays) at 8, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, at 3 o'clock.—Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—GRAND CON-

CERT, on SATURDAY EVENING, April 22nd, in aid of an Italian Charity. Madame Amadei, Miss Stabinski, Mademoiselle Milla, Mademoiselle Cesarini, Mademoiselle Coulon, Miss Barclay, Miss Tudor, Madame F. Labiche, Signor Bellini, Signor Nappi, Signor Marra, Signor Briscioni, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. E. Blagrove, Signor Foss, and Herr Formes will appear.

Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., to be had of the Music-sellers, and at the Hall.

DURING EASTER WEEK the Museum

of Ornamental Art and Schools at Marlborough House, Pall-mall, will be open daily for the inspection of the Public.—Admission Free.

WHITTINGTON CLUB and METRO-

POLITAN ATHENÆUM LIBRARY, READING, and NEWS ROOMS supplied with thirty daily and one hundred weekly and provincial papers; in this respect offering special advantages to literary men. Weekly Assemblies for Music and Dancing, Lectures, Classes, and Entertainments. Dining, Coffee, Smoking, and Drawing Rooms. Subscriptions, Two Guineas the Year, One Guinea the Half-year; Ladies, half these rates. Country members, One Guinea the Year. NO ENTRANCE FEE.

New Subscriptions date from the First of any Month.—A prospectus with complete List of Classes, Lectures, and Entertainments for the ensuing quarter forwarded upon application.

Thursday, April 20, Musical Entertainment by J. E. Carpenter, Esq.
Thursday, April 27, Harp Entertainment by Frederick Chatterton, Esq. To commence at Eight o'clock. Members free to both entertainments.

HENRY Y. BRACE, Secretary.

TO ALL BAD WRITERS.—Mr. T. H.

CARSALES continues to give LESSONS to Ladies and Gentlemen in his highly-improved METHOD OF WRITING, enabling all those who require it to obtain a command and freedom seldom (if ever) equalled. Prospectuses of terms, &c., may be had at the Establishment, 15, Lombard-street, City.

ECONOMIC CARPET CLEANING and

GENERAL DYEING COMPANY. Head office, 462, New Oxford-street.—The CARPETS of a mansion, by a cheap and simple process, CLEANED, fit for use, before breakfast. Neither heating nor taking up essential. In THE DYEING DEPARTMENT, all scientific improvements adopted. Orders punctually executed. Carpets freed from dust, from 2s. 6d. to 5s. each.—EDWARD H. OSBORNE.

ALLSOPP'S PALE or BITTER ALE.

Messrs. S. ALLSOPP and SONS beg to inform the TRADE that they are now registering orders for the March Brewings of their PALE ALE in casks of 18 Gallons and upwards, at the BREWERY, Burton-on-Trent; and at the undermentioned Branch Establishments:

London, at 61, King William-street, City;
Liverpool, at Cook-street;
Manchester, at Ducie-place;
Dudley, at the Burnt Tree;
Glasgow, at 115, St. Vincent-street;
Dublin, at 1, Crampton-quay;
Birmingham, at Market Hall;
South Wales, at 13, King-street, Bristol.

Messrs. ALLSOPP and SONS take the opportunity of announcing to PRIVATE FAMILIES that their ALES, so strongly recommended by the medical profession, may be procured in DRAUGHT and BOTTLED GENUINE from all the most RESPECTABLE LICENSED VICTUALLERS, on "ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE" being specially asked for.

When in bottle, the genuineness of the label can be ascertained by its having "ALLSOPP and SONS" written across it.

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent for

supplying the Public with the celebrated unadulterated BOTTLED ALES, PORTER, and STOUT, brewed by the Metropolitan and Provincial Joint-Stock Brewery Company, submits the following scale of charges for the Company's goods in imperial measures:—

Ale or Stout	.....	quarts	6 d.
Do do	.....	pints	3 0 per doz.
Do do	.....	half pints	2 0 "

Country orders promptly attended to.—Money orders on the Strand Office.

The same goods are constantly on draught at the Company's Wholesale and Retail Stores,

13, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, London,

Where all orders must be sent to

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent.

P.S.—A Single Bottle at the wholesale price, and families supplied with the same beer in casks.

ANOTHER REDUCTION OF FOUR-

PENCE THE POUND IN THE DUTY ON TEA.

In accordance with our usual practice of always being FIRST to give the Public the full ADVANTAGE of every REDUCTION in the value of our goods, we have at once lowered the prices of all our Teas to fullest extent of the REDUCTION OF DUTY; and we are determined, so far as we are concerned, that the Public shall reap the full benefit of this act of the Government.

The Best Pekoe Congou	.....	3 s.	4 d.
Strong Breakfast ditto	.....	3 0 "	8 s the pound.
Good sound ditto	.....	2 8 "	"
Choice Gunpowder	.....	4 8 "	"
Finest Young Hyson	.....	4 4 "	"
Good Plantation Coffee	.....	1 0 "	"
Cuba, Jamaica or Costa Rica	.....	1 4 "	"
Choice old Mocha	.....	1 6 "	"
The Best Homoeopathic Cocoa	.....	1 0 "	"

For the convenience of our numerous customers, we retail the finest West India and Refined Sugars at market prices.

All goods delivered by our own vans, free of charge, within eight miles of London. Parcels of Tea and Coffee, of the value of Two Pounds sterling, are sent, carriage free, to any part of England.

CULLINGHAM AND COMPANY.

Tea-merchants and Dealers,

27, SKINNER-STREET, SNOW-HILL, CITY.

DUTY OFF TEA.—On and after the 6th

of April, the prices of all our TEAS will be again REDUCED 4d. per pound.

Strong Congou Tea, 2s. 6d., 3s. 10d., 4s.; former prices, 3s. 2d., 3s. 4d.

Rich Souchong Tea, 2s. 2d., 3s. 4d., 4s. 8d.; former prices, 2s. 6d., 3s. 2d., 4s.

Best Assam Pekoe Souchong Tea, 4s.; former price, 4s. 4d.

Prime Gunpowder Tea, 3s. 8d., 4s., 4s. 4d., 4s. 8d.; former prices, 4s., 4s. 4d., 4s. 8d., and 5s.

The Best Pearl Gunpowder, 5s.; former price, 5s. 4d.

Prime Coffee, 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 4d., 1s. 6d., 1s. 8d., 2s.

Best Old Mocha, 1s. 6d.

Sugars are supplied at market prices.

All goods sent carriage free, by our own vans, if within eight miles. Tea, coffees, and spices sent carriage free to any railway station or market-town in England if to the value of 4s. or upwards, by

PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, King William-street, City, London.

A general price-current sent post free on application.

TEETH.—By Her Majesty's Royal Letters

Patent.—Newly-invented and Patented application of chemically-prepared WHITE INDIA RUBBER in the construction of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, Gums, and Palates.—Mr. EPHRAIM MOSELY, Surgeon-Dentist, 61, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square, Sole Inventor and Patentee. A new, original, and invaluable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of chemically-prepared WHITE INDIA RUBBER as a lining to the ordinary gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted in a few of their most prominent features, as the following:—All sharp edges are avoided, no springs, wires, or fastenings are required, a greatly increased freedom of suction is supplied, a natural elasticity hitherto wholly unattainable, and a fit, perfected with the most unerring accuracy, is secured, while, from the softness and flexibility of the agent employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose, or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums. The acids of the mouth exert no agency on the chemically-prepared White India-rubber, and as it is a non-conductor, fluids of any temperature may with thorough comfort be imbibed and retained in the mouth, all unpleasantness of smell and taste being at the same time wholly provided against by the peculiar nature of its preparation.—To be obtained only at

61, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, LONDON.
22, Gay-street, Bath.
34, Eldon-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOM, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 2, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, PERRY'S PLACE. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with ornamental ornaments and two sets of bars, 21. 10s.; ditto with ornamental ornaments and two sets of bars, 21. 10s.; 12. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 35s.; Steel Fenders from 21. 15s. to 61.; ditto, with rich ornamental ornaments, from 21. 15s. to 71.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 41. 4s. Stylized and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges.

First—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and
Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

TEA URNS, OF LONDON MAKE

ONLY.—The largest assortment of London made TEA URNS in the world (including all the recent novelties many of which are registered) is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, from 30s. to 61.

THE BEST SHOW OF IRON BED-

STEADS IN THE KINGDOM is WILLIAM S. BURTON'S. He has TWO VERY LARGE ROOMS, which are devoted to the exclusive Show of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Children's Cots, with appropriate Bedding and Mattresses. Common Iron Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Portable Folding Bedsteads from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 21s.; and Cots, from 21s. each. Handsome ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from 21. 15s. to 131. 15s.

PAPIER MACHE and IRON TEA-

TRAYS.—An assortment of Tea-Trays and Waiters wholly unprecedented, whether as to extent, variety, or novelty.

Gothic shape Papier Maché Trays, per set of three from 20s. 6d. to 30 guineas.
Ditto, Iron ditto from 12s. 6d. to 4 guineas.
Convex shape, ditto from 7s. 6d.

A large quantity of small papier maché and iron trays, many of them executed in the highest style of art, at about a quarter of their original cost; being odd, or slightly out of condition. These are especially worthy the attention of tavern and coffee-house keepers. Round and Gothic waiters, cake and bread-baskets equally low.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS (all communicating) exclusive of the Shop, devoted solely to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japanned wares, iron and brass bedsteads and bedding), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); Nos. 1 & 2, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 & 5, PERRY'S PLACE.

NOVELTY IN BEDSTEADS.—

HAMMOND'S newly-invented ORIENTAL OTTOMAN, a handsome ornament in a room, forms a full-sized bedstead for two persons on a moment's notice; price, mattress complete, 35s. The largest stock of Bedsteads, Beds, Mattresses, and Palliasses in the kingdom, at HAMMOND'S Bedding Factories, 14, High Holborn, London.

OLD PATTERNS BRUSSELS CAR-

PETS.—Families who do not object to patterns of last year's designs, have now an opportunity of selecting from upwards of 1000 pieces of dining and drawing room carpets, at a considerable allowance from the manufacturers' prices. Thus superior qualities (the Comber patterns), original price 4s. 9d. and 5s. per yard, are now 3s. 6d. and 3s. 9d.; three-thread Brussels are reduced from 4s. 3s. and 5s. 3d. per yard; and several large lots of really good and durable Brussels are to be sold at 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. per yard. Tapestry, velvet pile, and Turkey carpets in great variety. Silk, worsted, and cashmere damasks for curtains. Good washing damasks, from 21s. per piece of 30 yards. Patterns forwarded to any part of town or country, and are now on view at the National Linen Company's warehouses, 165, Fleet-street, corner of Farringdon-street, and bottom of Ludgate-hill.

A NEW DISCOVERY IN TEETH.

MR. HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST,

52, FLEET-STREET, has introduced an ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and prolong articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication.

52, FLEET-STREET.—At home from Ten till Five.

DEAFNESS.—NEW DISCOVERY.—

The ORGANIC VIBRATOR, an extraordinary powerful, small, newly-invented instrument for deafness, entirely different from all others, to surpass anything of the kind that has been, or probably ever can be produced; being of the same colour as the skin is not perceptible. It enables the deaf person to hear distinctly at church and at public assemblies: the unpleasant sensation of ringing in the ears is entirely removed, and it affords all the assistance that possibly could be desired. Invaluable Newly-invented Spectacles. Immediately they are placed before extremely imperfect vision, every object becomes clear and distinct. The most aged defective sight is brought to its natural, and original state. The most powerful Patent Telescopes, possessing such extraordinary powers, that some 10 inches, with an extra eye-piece, will show distinctly Jupiter's moons, Saturn's ring, and the double stars; with the same Telescope can be seen a person's countenance 30 miles distant, and an object from 16 to 20 miles. Opera Camp, Race-course, and Perspective Glasses to know the distances. Also a very small powerful Waistcoat Pocket-glass, the size of a walnut, to discern minute objects at the distance of from four to five miles.

S. and B. Solomon, Aurists and Opticians, 30, Abchurch-lane, Piccadilly. Observe, opposite the York Hotel.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.
The Court of Directors grant **LETTERS OF CREDIT** and **BILLS** at 30 days' sight upon the Company's Bank at Adelaide. The exchange on sums above £10 is now at a premium or charge of two per cent. Approved drafts on South Australia negotiated, and bills collected.
Apply at the Company's Office, 54, Old Broad-street, London.
London, April, 1854. **WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.**

BALTIC FLEET, DENMARK.

TURKEY, &c.—The SUBMARINE and EUROPEAN Telegraph Companies' London Offices, 30, Cornhill, and 43, Regent-circus, Piccadilly, have established **DIRECT SERVICES**, which very much facilitate TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION with DENMARK, the NORTH of GERMANY, and SOUTH of EUROPE.
G. L. PARROTT, Secretary.
30, Cornhill, 29th March, 1854.

THE ST. MARGARET'S ESTATE, RICHMOND.

THE magnificent MANSION and picturesque PARK at ST. MARGARET'S, opposite Richmond Gardens, may be viewed daily between the hours of twelve and five o'clock (Sundays excepted) by cards only, to be had of the Executive Committee of the Conservative Land Society. The purchase-money having been paid up on Lady-Day, the allotment of this valuable estate on the banks of the Thames has been fixed for WEDNESDAY, the 7th of JUNE. Cards will be only forwarded to the Members and their friends on application to the Secretary, St. Margaret's, who will be reached either by the river steamers, by omnibus to Richmond, or by the South-Western Railway, at the Twickenham, Idsworth, or Richmond stations.
CHARLES LEWIS GRUNSEIN, Secretary.
Offices, 33, Norfolk-street, Strand, April 5th, 1854.

H. J. and D. NICOLL, MERCHANT TAILORS, PALETTOT PATENTEES.

Every excellence with fair charges.
114, 116, 118, 120, REGENT-STREET, and 22, CORNHILL, LONDON.

AMERICAN CLOCK WAREHOUSE.

Embracing every variety of these superior Timepieces, imported directly from our Old Established Factory; all brass works, and warranted to keep correct time. They are sold one-third less than the usual price. Day Clocks from 10s. to 16s.; Night-Doors, 20s. to 35s.; also, every variety of American goods, by LEFAVOUR & Co., 546, New Oxford-street.

AMERICAN PEACHES.—This excellent

FRUIT, perfectly fresh, and of the finest flavour, we are now importing from the United States, hermetically sealed, in jars and cans. Those in jars, preserved in brandy, at the reduced price of 5s.; fresh peaches, in cans, 4s.; try on the receipt of a Post-office Order for the amount. Sold, with every variety of American goods, at the American Warehouse, by LEFAVOUR & Co., 546, New Oxford-street.

ONE THOUSAND BEDSTEADS TO CHOOSE FROM.—HEAL AND SON'S Stock com-

prises a large assortment of handsomely japanned and painted and OOTS of new and elegant designs: MAHOGANY, BIRCH, and WALNUT-TREE BEDSTEADS, of the choicest and best manufacture, many of them fitted with Furniture, complete, and every variety of SERVANTS' and POOR-TABLE BEDSTEADS. They have also a large assortment of

BED-ROOM FURNITURE. comprising

WARDROBES, both in Japanned Wood and Mahogany, from 4 ft. to 8 ft. long. Fitted with every variety of STANDS, DRAWERS, and GLASSES, WASH-furnishing of a Bed Room.

HEAL AND SON'S ILLUSTRATED

CATALOGUE OF BEDSTEADS and priced List of Bedsteads, containing designs and prices of upwards of One Thousand, sent free by post.

HEAL AND SON, 196, Tottenham Court-road.

GREAT EXHIBITION ELASTIC BO-

DEFORMITY. Shift stays destroy natural grace, produce consumption, and a host of evils arise from their use. TINS ELASTIC BODICE is without whalebone or lacing, at the same time furnishing a sufficient support, and impossible under the pressure which in the great aim, and mischief is the certain end, of all kinds of stays. The time and patience of the wearer are also spared, by a simple fastening in front, to obviate the trouble of lacing. Can be sent by post.

To be obtained only of the Inventors and Manufacturers, E. and E. H. MARTIN, 504, New Oxford-street. A Prospectus, &c., on receipt of a stamp.

MURTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

THE MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the roundish resistance power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c. For VARI- COSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELL- LING OF THE LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordi- nary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 10s. Postage, 6d.

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE.

Fleet-street, next St. Dunstan's Church.
London, April 10, 1854.
Notice is hereby given, that the Dividends for the year 1853 are NOW PAYABLE daily (Tuesdays excepted) between the hours of 11 and 3 o'clock.
By order of the Directors,
WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

MANCHESTER AND LONDON LIFE

ASSURANCE AND LOAN ASSOCIATION,
77, KING-STREET, MANCHESTER;
454, WEST STRAND, LONDON;

1, CAVENDISH-BOW, BURLAND-SQ. DUBLIN.

1. Life and survivorship risks of every description—civil, naval, or military.
2. Loans on equitable terms, life assurance being contemporaneously effected, on approved personal or any other sufficient security.
Four-fifths, or 80 per cent., divided every five years amongst all policyholders entitled to profits.

Secretary, Manchester—
CHARLES HENRY MINCHIN.

Actuary and Secretary, London—
WILLIAM JAMES STRICKLAND.

OFFICERS in the NAVAL and MILI-

TARY SERVICES may Assure their Lives in the UNITED MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE, 54, Charing-cross, on the payment for war risk of a small additional premium; such addition to cease on the termination of actual service.
THOMAS PRITCHARD, Resident Director.

RAILWAY TRAVELLERS may obtain

Tickets of Insurance against RAILWAY ACCIDENTS for the Journey, on payment of 1d., 2d., or 3d., by the Booking Clerks, at all the Principal Rail-Passenger Assurance Office, 3, Old Broad-street, LONDON.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

WANTED, ACTIVE AGENTS FOR

THE AMAZON LIFE ASSURANCE AND LOAN COMPANY, AND SICK BENEFIT SOCIETY. A Liberal commission and procuration fees allowed. Applications to

WILLOUGHBY WOODBRIDGE, Manager and Actuary.
1, Ironmonger-lane, London.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

7, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London.
Established May, 1844.

Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, and for the convenience of parties residing at a distance, may be received at the Branch Offices, or paid through Country Bankers, without expense.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
Prospectuses free on application.

GENERAL INDEMNITY

INSURANCE COMPANY.
Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament, for the Guarantee against Losses arising from Robberies, Forgery, Frauds, Debts, Insolvency, Fire, and Non-payment of Rent.

Life Assurance is also effected on improved and safe principles.
Capital, 500,000l. (with power to increase to 1,000,000l.) in 100,000 Shares of 5l. each. Deposit, 1l. per Share.

Office: **CANNON-STREET WEST, LONDON.**

Solicitors: Messrs. Humphreys, Son, and Morgan.

Consulting Actuary: Alex. G. Finlaison, Esq., Old Jewry, City.

Managing Director:—William Rendall, Esq.

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